

Bay **B.A.R.** Reporter

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395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103



Bosom buddies

Singer Joan Baez (right) hugs singer Janis Ian onstage at the NGLTF benefit, Fight the Right, April 16. The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts fundraiser was designed to help communities battle the various anti-gay initiatives promoted by the far right in several states.

(Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

Health Budget Announced

\$5.84 Million Cut Overall; Only \$200,000 in AIDS Cuts

by Dennis Conkin

The San Francisco Health Department has announced service cuts of \$5.84 million in its annual budget. The 9.75 percent decrease is due to a proposed reduction of \$10 million from funds it will receive from the city's general fund allocation for fiscal year 1994-1995. Only \$220,000 will specifically affect the AIDS budget.

The Department will receive a total of \$110 million in general funds for the fiscal year, about 18 percent of its annual estimated budget of \$600 million.

"While the Department attempted to meet increased costs and general fund reductions through revenue enhancements and cost containment, it was still forced to propose service cuts to meet the general fund allocation," Dr. Sandra Hernandez said in a supplemental report to the Health Commission.

Hernandez delivered the report to the Health Commission at its Tuesday, April 19



Dr. Sandra Hernandez.

meeting.

Three AIDS service groups that receive funding through the city's AIDS Office will be affected by the service reductions. The impact on the delivery of services to people with AIDS will be minimal, Hernandez told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Slated for cuts are Project Open Hand, which would no longer receive \$156,000 of city funding for its meal program for people with HIV/AIDS; the Shanti Project Caregiver Training, which would lose \$36,080 in city funds; and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, which is slated for the elimination of \$27,170 cuts in underwriting funds for its HIV newsletter.

"The caregiver training was selected for defunding because there is currently a grant-funded program in San Francisco which provides caregivers support services," Hernandez said. "In addition, Project Open Hand's food services has recently received a large federal grant [\$650,000 in Ryan White Care funds] and this will result in no net decrease of food service delivery to HIV/AIDS clients in San Francisco."

Hernandez told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Project Open Hand's city funding for service began when the pro-

(Continued on page 19)

American Indian AIDS Institute Now in Receivership

by Dennis Conkin

Supporters of the Community Advisory Board of the American Indian AIDS Institute held a noon protest in front of the Health Department's AIDS Office on Monday, April 18. The action was called to protest last month's decision by the Health Department's AIDS Office to place the agency under receivership, according to Randy Burns, a gay Native American activist and co-founder of Gay American Indians, a 19-year-old membership group.

The receivership, according to AIDS Office director Dr. Mitch Katz, was instituted after a significant number of staff resignations at the agency and months of escalating tensions between the staff and the agency's Community Advisory Board.

"It is the intent of the AIDS Office that this receivership will be temporary," he said.

Burns blasted the AIDS Office for "using the staff to create factionalism in the American Indian community" and dictating "western beliefs, criminal policies, and AIDS politics," charges Katz denied.

"There is a deep rift between the staff and the board," Katz said. "One side disputes the other side. We are not choosing sides. The board has no legal authority."

"The responsibility of the AIDS office is not to take sides but to attempt to save



Randy Burns of Gay American Indians. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

the agency," Katz said. "Our first concern is [to make sure] that clients who need the services receive them."

The dispute between staff and management at the agency follows the January resignations of Les Hanson, AIAI's executive director, and Tom Eades, its prevention and education coordinator, and the appointment of former board member Erne Pahe as the agency's interim director.

"All the board wanted from the start was to ask the AIAI staff members to be-

come more accountable to the program and client services and include better outreach services to the Indian community," Burns said.

Among the charges raised in the dispute are allegations by the staff of self-dealing by the board, and countercharges by the board that the staff is insubordinate to its authority.

"There are really serious issues here," said Burns. "The American Indian Community demands a full program audit."

Katz told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the services provided by the agency were primarily for Ryan White care contracts, federal AIDS prevention and education contracts administered by the Health Department.

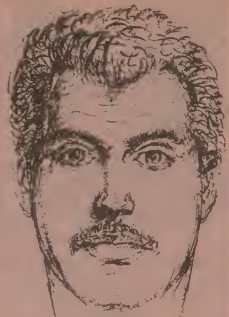
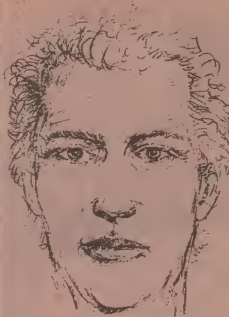
Although the agency has incorporated and has been granted tax exempt status by the state of California, it only recently filed for federal nonprofit tax-exempt status.

Founded in 1989, AIAI's fiscal agent is Bay View Hunter's Point Foundation.

Katz said that an AIDS Office receiver would be present at the Valencia Street site to approve all expenditures and financial transactions and provide all management functions normally provided by an Executive Director. "The AIDS Office has the responsibility to ensure the adequate delivery of services," he said.

A mediation between staff and the agency's board of directors has been scheduled for Sunday, May 15. ▼

Do you know this person?



San Francisco police homicide inspectors this week released two composite sketches of a man they seek for questioning in the March 28 homicide of Thomas Wegner. The two drawings are of the same individual, showing how he would look with and without a mustache.

The composites are based on eyewitness descriptions of the person who was seen with Wegner on Monday, March 28 at 11:30 a.m. in a Polk area bar.

Wegner's dismembered body was discovered in a Myrtle Alley dumpster at 5:30 p.m. that afternoon. Police confirm that not all of Wegner's body was found in the dumpster, but believe that the body was dismembered by the killer in order to dispose of it and that it was not a ritualistic slaying or dismemberment.

Homicide Inspector Mike Johnson told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the person they seek for questioning is a white male in his late 30s or early 40s, with a medium build of about 180 pounds, who is between 5'9" and 6' tall, with grey-blond hair.

Anyone with information about the identity of the man depicted in the composite sketches should contact Inspector Mike Johnson or Alex Fagan of the SFPD Homicide Bureau at 553-1145.

— Dennis Conkin

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Scientists believe gene therapy may be able to unlock HIV's secrets. See page 18

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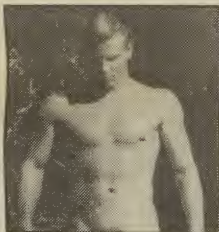
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Community News



Title for Trauma

Trauma Flintstone (center), sans wig and with a smile on her face, was the big winner of the annual Miss Uranus Contest April 17. Following the announcement of her victory, the contestants engaged in a little onstage wrestling to show their support. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Caution: Visiting the Steamworks May Be Hazardous to Your Health

by Dennis Conkin

Berkeley police have confirmed that a man who was shot several times in the head and seriously wounded on March 30 during a robbery attempt was on his way to the Steamworks, a popular Berkeley bathhouse.

Police declined to identify the individual who was admitted to Oakland's Highland Hospital suffering from serious injuries. The 52-year-old Novato man was released from the hospital earlier this month.

Berkeley police late arrested Timothy Williams, 24, a Berkeley resident with the crime.

Williams was also charged with the robbery of an unidentified San Francisco man on March 31, just two doors from the Steamworks, as well as two other robberies in the area.

Williams remains in jail



The Steam Works: crime site in Berkeley. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

facing at least eight felony counts, including robbery with the use of force, assault with a deadly weapon, being

an ex-felon in possession of a firearm, possession of cocaine base for sale, and carrying a firearm without a license.

The man who was on his way to the Steamworks "is very lucky to be alive," according to Deputy Alameda County District Attorney Nancy Davis.

Although Williams's prior felony convictions are not serious felonies under the new "three strikes" sentencing rules, if he is convicted on the current charges, he faces life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Williams remains in Alameda County jail without bail on the charges and a no bail parole hold, Davis told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

A female accomplice who is suspected in the crimes remains at large.

A pre-trial hearing in connection with the case is scheduled for Thursday, April 21. ▼

Luddington Resigns from City Health Commission, Lauded by Many Admirers

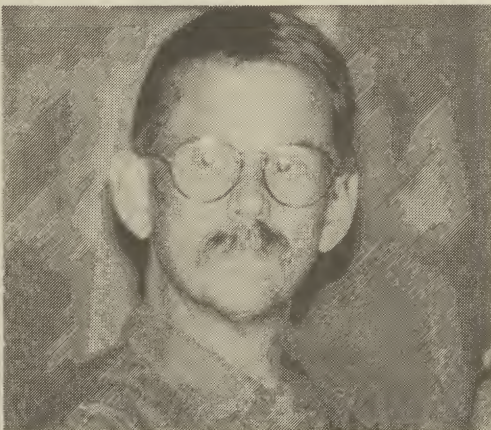
by Dennis Conkin

San Francisco Health Commissioner Pierre Luddington resigned at the April 19 meeting of the commission. Luddington, who has AIDS, was chair of the commission's Joint Conference on Community Public Health, AIDS, and Emergency Medical Services, as well as the commission's Budget Committee.

A longtime gay activist and onetime executive director of the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, Luddington was appointed to the Commission by Mayor Art Agnos in 1990.

Luddington was feted at a moving presentation at the Health Commission that included remarks by Agnos, who read a letter from President Clinton commending Luddington for his years of service.

The presentation also included resolutions and plaques from the board of su-



Former San Francisco Health Commissioner Pierre Luddington. (Photo: Judi Parks)

pervisors and the Health Commission, as well as a proclamation by Mayor Frank Jordan proclaiming the

day Pierre Luddington Day in San Francisco.

Luddington resigned because of declining health. ▼

Community Briefs

Fight the Right's Wrongs

A public forum to discuss the threat of the so-called religious right has been announced for this Saturday, April 23. Progressive religious leaders, laity, and interested parties are invited to attend the forum, which will begin at 10 am at the First Unitarian Church, located at 1187 Franklin Street.

The forum will be moderated by Jeff Hoper of the American Civil Liberties Union. A donation of \$5-10 is suggested. For more information, call 648-4042.

Jordan to Lawmakers: Let 'Em Smoke

Mayor Frank Jordan has joined the call for the decriminalization of marijuana for people with terminal illnesses. On Wednesday, April 13, Jordan signed a resolution authored by Supervisor Terence Hallinan in support of SB 1364, the medicinal marijuana bill that was introduced by about half a dozen senators from both parties, including San Francisco's Milton Marks and Gil Fergusson, a Republican from Orange County.

"People who are suffering from painful illness should not be denied an effective treatment just because that treatment would be illegal if used for other purposes," said Jordan, a former San Francisco Police Department Chief. "The chronically, incurably, and terminally ill should not be made criminals for trying to ease their suffering."

Bye, Bye, Bynum

A Nashville doctor who scoured San Francisco for recruits for his fledgling AIDS treatment business has been sentenced to a halfway house for six months by Federal Judge Robert Echols. Dr. Therial L. Bynum was found guilty by a federal jury of fraudulently filing for a permit to handle controlled substances.

Bynum came to San Francisco last October for a symposium on AIDS, where he claimed a combination of Prednisone and Cyclosporine would halt or reverse the disease.

Gay Asians Parade Their Stuff Saturday

For the first time in the history of the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival Parade, it will include groups of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals. The grand parade, which is the culmination of a week-long celebration of Japanese culture, will include the groups Asian/Pacific Sisters (OAS), Older Asian Sisters in Solidarity (OASIS), and the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance.

The parade will begin at 1 pm in front of City Hall and is expected to last three hours before ending at the Japan Center. Gay, lesbians, and bisexuals will wear paper cherry blossoms, each of which comes from a person who is afraid to participate because of the impact it may have on their families or work.

Community News



Sister speak

Skye Ward (standing) addresses a meeting of Umoja women at the offices of the Black Coalition on AIDS April 12. Umoja was formed to combat the religious right's infiltration of black communities and meets twice a month at BCOA at 1042 Divisadero Street. For more details call (510) 874-4794.

(Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

PAWS Throws the Public a Bone

by Mike Salinas

The board of directors of Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) have announced a forum at which the public is invited to speak — sort of. According to Maryann Cleary, interim executive director of the organization, the town meeting will be held Friday, April 29.

However, Cleary told the *Bay Area Reporter*, the date is still tentative, no location has been established, and she is not sure if she will attend. "It's unclear if it's advisable for me

to be there," she said.

Cleary is at the center of the controversy that threatens to destroy the organization: clients, volunteers, employees, and donors have charged she and the board of directors have allowed services to deteriorate and volunteerism to languish, charges she disputes.

Members of the public who attended the last PAWS board meeting, Tuesday, April 12, were not allowed to voice their concerns. When several protested, board president Ron Lewis called the police to have them ejected. ▼

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Community News

Spring Must Be Here: It's Orchid Mania Time Again

by Dennis Conkin

Orchid Mania, the fifth annual orchid extravaganza that benefits local and international AIDS service groups, is set for Mother's Day weekend.

Thousands of orchid plants donated by amateur and commercial orchid growers from around the world will be on sale—from "beginner" plants, which start at \$3, to the more rare and collectible plants worth several hundred dollars each.

The project is the brainchild of Douglas Thompson, who says he had no idea that the project would eventually involve orchid fanciers, collectors, and growers from around the world.

"I came across the idea five years ago. I'd finally learned how not to hurt or kill my orchids—but I had so many of them I had to get rid of some and I decided to have this little sale. I had no idea what it would turn into," Thompson told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"Well, I did write a few letters and sent a few faxes to commercial orchid growers, just to see what I could get out of them. They were all strangers," he laughed. "Now we have friends from around the world."

The enthusiastic response, Thompson says, grew into what he calls the "world's largest orchid garage sale."

Even at the first sale it was obvious the event was a success. "By the second day, we'd raised \$9,000," he said, adding the understatement, "which was pretty remarkable."

The money raised from the first sale was donated to the AIDS Emergency Fund, but Orchid Mania now supports a variety of AIDS



Orchid orgy: The fifth annual floral fest, otherwise known as Orchid Mania, is taking place at 500 Hayes Street Mother's Day weekend. Last year's sales earned \$25,000 for six AIDS groups.

(Photo: Rick Gerhart)

groups with the annual event. "We fund groups which rely primarily on private donations rather than taxpayer funds. They have to provide some direct service at no cost and we put a three year limit on funding the group," Thompson said.

Last year's weekend sale brought in nearly \$25,000 for six AIDS groups.

In the Northern California area, Thompson said, "We helped Service Through Touch; ACCESS, a group in Fort Bragg that serves the Mendocino Coast and Sonoma County; and Ellipse in San Mateo County."

"A third of the grants go outside the United States. Not that there's an absence of needs here, but more than a third of the plants donated come from out of the country; from third world areas where there are no organizations, no services, nothing but a non-supportive government and an oppressive church," Thompson said.

International groups that have received assistance from

the group include International Voluntary Services, a DC-based group that provides medical and health education assistance in developing nations.

This year's funds are earmarked for ACCESS; Ellipse; IVS; FACT, a Bangkok group that provides services to gay Thai men and male prostitutes; and the Oscar Romero Project, a Nicaraguan AIDS support group.

"Everybody has a responsibility to do something. I grew up in a family of doers. It's just something I learned. Orchid Mania has created an easy way for mainstream people to give and get involved. There are little old Republican women who would never give to anything remotely resembling an AIDS organization, who are among our most generous contributors," Thompson said.

For more information about the Mother's Day weekend sale, or even for directions to 500 Hayes Street, contact Orchid Mania at 267-4814. ▼

Even the Fundies Like To Hang Out in Guerneville

by Mike Salinas

Gays in the Russian River area were targeted by religious fundamentalists from Sacramento on Friday, April 9. Approximately a dozen members of the "New Hope Christian Fellowship" set up a table outside Old Bank Building on Highway 116 in Guerneville to distribute literature that refers to God's "plan ... to introduce His Son Jesus to those who claim to be homosexuals."

The Sheriff promptly moved a tambourine-banging, violin-sawing chorus of people who claimed to be Christians from the steps of Guerneville's WestAmerica Bank, at the bank's behest. The California Highway Patrol also shooed the fundies away from their spot in front of the Old Bank Building, because their folding table full of tract copies obstructed the sidewalk.

Homosexuality: old habit

The tract, entitled *Target*, is written from a first person perspective, by a man (presumably) who claims "at the age of thirty-five I ... stopped drinking, drugs, bar-hopping,



A "straight" convert was supposedly the author of this New Hope Christian Fellowship tract.

and womanizing" because of his religious conversion. "Some of my old friends," the piece continues, "had given up on old habits as well—drinking, drugs, and homosexuality." Two paragraphs later the author claims God "show[ed] me that there were

many people in the homosexual life-style [sic] that truly did not want to have these desires."

Many Guerneville residents truly did not want to have the fundies in their midst that Friday afternoon. Most seemed willing to simply ignore the zealots' presence, but a few, such as local lesbian activist Beth Jackson, took the time to gather copies of the religious tract from area stores where fundies had deposited them, so they could be returned to their original owners.

According to Cliff Anchor, a resident of nearby Monte Rio, the fundies finally left the area around 4:30 p.m. "after getting nowhere."

"Perhaps some day," Anchor said, "they will follow their own Bible's commandments: 'Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness Against Thy Neighbor' and 'Judge Not Others Lest Ye Be Judged.'"

Callers to the number of "New Hope Christian Fellowship" as listed on the literature—(916) 649-9064—heard an answering message that apologized for technical problems that have disabled the telephone system. ▼

Community News

Stadtlander's Gives \$12K in New Grants to Local AIDS Organizations

by Dennis Conkin

Funded by \$100,000 from Stadtlander's Pharmacy last year, the Stadtlanders Foundation has awarded four Bay Area AIDS groups \$12,468 in grants.

The grants have been made to The Diablo Valley AIDS Center; Meals of Marin; WORLD; and the American Indian AIDS Institute, according to spokesperson Erica Freiberger.

Because the American Indian AIDS Institute is not a federally recognized and tax exempt non-profit agency, the grant will be made to its fiscal agent, Bay View Hunters Point Foundation.

Stadtlander's Foundation awarded a total of \$100,000 to 40 AIDS service groups around the country, ranging from meal delivery to nutrition counseling, treatment newsletters, and educational workshops.

The funding decisions were made by a 16-member National AIDS Community Advisory Board, which Stadtlander's says is comprised entirely of individuals who are themselves leaders in AIDS service.

The board, chaired by Names Project founder and onetime candidate for San Francisco Supervisor Cleve Jones, includes Bart Casimir, president of the National Association of People with



Weighty material: Volunteers from Raise the Rainbow help fold 7,000 pounds of rainbow material in their New York City workshop. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

AIDS, and Project Open Hand's controversial founder Ruth Brinker.

Grant recipient Rebecca Denison, founder of the WORLD newsletter for women with HIV, says the funds will help the venture reach more seropositive women.

"Our newsletter and other support services help us to say to any HIV positive woman living in isolation, 'You are not alone.' The funds will enable us to continue and to be able to do even more," Denison said in a statement accepting the grant.

According to Freiberger, the foundation hopes to raise half a million dollars through its Raise the Rainbow fundraising project on June 26 as part of the Stonewall commemorative march in New York City.

A mile-long rainbow flag

will be carried up Fifth Avenue, with marchers in the contingent making a tax-deductible contribution of \$50 to take part in the "historic event." The flag is now being constructed, overseen by its acknowledged designer, San Franciscan Gilbert Baker.

Participants who carry the flag will receive a 30-foot wide commemorative strip of it, following the event.

All costs for the event are underwritten by Stadtlander's Pharmacy; all funds raised will be used by the foundation to fund AIDS service groups in the second round of funding set for the fall.

More than \$1 million in grant requests for the first funding cycle were received from nearly 200 groups needing financial assistance, Freiberger told the Bay Area Reporter. ▼

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Another Late Night Castro Area Robbery Reported Last Week

by Dennis Conkin

A Castro neighborhood resident was the victim of a strong arm robbery at 16th and Market last week.

The victim was walking down Market Street on his way home at about 2:30 a.m. April 12, after a stop at the Bank of America ATM at Castro and 18th and a bit of late night shopping at Walgreen's, when, according to a police report, "he noticed a dark vehicle pull alongside the curb and parked a few feet ahead of him."

As the victim walked by the car, described as a 4-door Navy blue Datsun "in very poor condition," one of three suspects in the incident got out of the car and tripped him.

The assailant was described in the police report as a black male, 5'10" tall, weighing about 200 pounds, wearing a plaid shirt and a blue jacket. There were two other suspects, including the driver of the car, whom the victim could not clearly describe.

The victim fell to the sidewalk and "immediately started kicking his feet and screaming for help."

From all indications, the suspect didn't expect the reaction, because he managed to get kicked in the face — and lost his watch in the struggle — before he grabbed the victim's backpack, got back in the car, and fled down Market Street.

The suspect's watch was booked as police evidence.

The victim's black leather jacket and his wallet were stolen in the incident. ▼

Cal Supreme Court Rejects Lesbian Custody Case

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court will not review an appeals court decision that refused to grant visitation rights to a lesbian who helped raise her lover's child before the couple broke up.

The court voted 6-0 on Wednesday, April 13 to turn down an appeal from a woman identified only as Georgia P., who sued after her former lover threatened to move with the child from Sonoma County.

A state appeals court ruled in January that Georgia P. did not have any parental rights, even though the child, who is now eight years old, recognized both women as parents.

"She was asking to be treated as if she was a legal parent because she lived with the mother before, during, and after the pregnancy," said Carol Amyx, the attorney for the biological mother, identified only as Kerry P. ▼



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Editorial

Oh, Buck It!

"Solipsism: In philosophy ... the theory that nothing exists or is real but the self."

— Webster's Unabridged Dictionary

...In other words, abject and childish selfishness, like that of a six-year-old who believes the world might be a private Disneyland and he is its only real inhabitant. It's dangerous, and pervasive, and a trend we would urge readers to buck.

What got us thinking about solipsism lately is traffic. In the first episode of *Twin Peaks* — remember that? — Agent Cooper observed that cities could be broken down into two categories: the ones where cars slow down for yellow lights and the ones where they speed up. These days we've noticed drivers are doing neither. They just sail through at cruising speed, risking their lives and those of anyone who may be coming through the intersection from the other direction, with the right of way.

This may not seem like a particularly gay subject, and it isn't, except that lesbians and gays die every day of things other than AIDS and breast cancer and anti-gay violence. We've seen too many cars zooming around SoMa, Castro, and Polk, endangering too many of our friends, to be silent about it. And since it stands to reason that some of those cars are also being driven by our friends and readers, we implore you to be a little more careful. Stop for red lights, watch for pedestrians, remember that you are not alone.

We hear the phenomenon is not limited to San Francisco, that people are running red lights with abandon all over the country, which isn't surprising. It fits in with the solipsism that is evident around the world these days. Most of the selfishness is so enormous — in Bosnia, in the West Bank, in South Africa, in Ovett — that it's easy to forget it ever started small, with things like disregarding red lights.

But solipsism does begin almost imperceptibly; as we said, it is a concept that is fairly common in very young children, and if selfishness isn't caught and corrected at that age it usually grows up to be a sociopathic disregard for the rest of the population.

We aren't sure where the seeds of this new breakdown were planted, or how they were cultivated, except to say that we suspect the Reagans spread a lot of their fertilizer around. When the leaders of a county show so little regard for its citizens; when Nancy "borrows" jewels in violation of the law with no discernable intent to return them; when Ron says he won't cut the safety net and then shreds it, sending hoards of people with mental and physical disabilities out on the cold streets of America; when their friends loot the offices to which they were appointed; etc., etc., etc. — these are unhealthy for everyone. They lead to a belief that any action is justifiable if the perpetrator has more guts than morals.

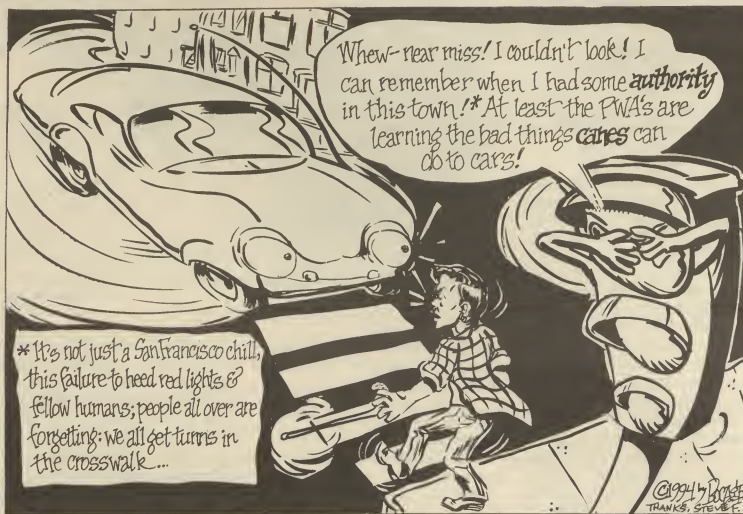
The trend toward isolationism has to stop, and soon. If left unchecked it will result in at least another world war and another holocaust. And it must be stopped one person at a time, one action at a time: by slowing down, watching out for those who are less protected, and remembering that we are not alone. It's something we demand from our enemies, and the only way we can justify that is to show we are capable of it.

When we suggest calling homophobic televangelists to speak with those toll-free operators, as we have, we don't suggest filling their ears with poison after getting them on the line. It's much better to identify yourself as a person, a viewer, and then a homosexual. Don't allow the barrier to form between yourself and those who seek to isolate, trivialize, and destroy you.

Let them know, if you can before they hang up, that you share this world with them, which is no more a crime against them or humanity than sharing a highway with them. And that for the good of everyone, there are laws and red lights to be obeyed. Even those with the biggest semi trucks are expected to resist the urge to run over the smallest pedestrian.

Hmmm. This column seems to have ventured into the philosophical territory found in that book, *Everything I Need I Learned in Kindergarten*, and although we know that may offend some readers' sense of sophistication, we think those are pretty good rules to follow: put your things away, share, don't break things, observe the Golden Rule. They don't fit in with the Me Generation's dictums, but that's why we like them.

Clearly, the world is at a crossroads. Don't run it over. ▼



Guest Opinion

How Fascism Gains a Footing

by Scott R. Alpert

Were we to watch every last foot of film documenting the Nazis' crimes against humanity, and not glean from it the understanding that those of us who remain passive and complacent in the face of such atrocity are every bit as guilty as those who actively perpetrate it, we would do just as well not to view such footage at all.

Until we truly understand and take to heart

the compassionate words of Jesus Christ, "That which you do unto the least of these, you do unto me," it would seem that most contemporaries who identify as Christians have strayed from this most fundamental tenet of Christ's teachings; we are to be ever compassionate and save judgment for God, who alone is without blemish.

Were AIDS a disease affecting primarily privileged, affluent white men of the country-club set, instead of people of color, gay men, the poor, and the drug-addicted, you can rest assured society's response would be one of total mobilization to understand and eradicate this scourge.

Instead, we entertain notions of "you're getting what you deserve" while we watch, dispassionate, the inexorable death march to these less conspicuous viral concentration camps.

Where is our compassion? Where is our understanding of "There, but for the Grace of God, go I?"

Not only are compassion and mobilization absent, some self-appointed "messengers of morality" from the religious right seek to inflict further harm to these already-suffering

communities through malevolent initiatives designed to castigate and disenfranchise. In the absence of the threat-of-communism to use as a convenient rallying point, these opportunists are shamelessly invoking fear of homosexuality to pander to their constituent base.

It is very much in this manner that fascism gains a footing in an otherwise sanguine social order, when political opportunists find a scapegoat in an unpopular segment of society on whom the ills of the day may be pinned. So

strong is our homophobia that many who would normally be counted on to challenge such social injustice, remain paralytic on the sidelines, afraid of the consequences of allying themselves with those who carry so much political and social risk.

In a democratic society the price of such inaction does not stop with the abridgment of the rights of the hated target-group alone. It ineluctably spreads, like a malignancy, infecting and destroying the next most undefended group. No one in Nazi Germany, not even the Master Race, was beyond the corrosive effects of such metastasis. With predictability, paranoiaic terror eventually destroys the entire body politic.

The lessons of the Holocaust go far beyond the homages we might pay the Nazi's victims through voiced platitudes and silent witness. We honor the memories of the murdered best by vigilantly speaking out against the inflammatory hyperbole of hate, especially when it is most dangerous and unpopular to do so.

Thomas Jefferson was more succinct: "The price of freedom is vigilance." ▼

"In the absence of the threat-of-communism to use as a convenient rallying point, these opportunists are shamelessly invoking fear of homosexuality to pander to their constituent base."

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Letters

Horror Stories at PAWS

When the PAWS public board of directors meeting was announced, I personally called Marianne Cleary to ask if the public would be allowed to speak and give input at the meeting. She assured me that this was the case.

On the day of the meeting, April 12, I spoke to the PAWS office to reconfirm.

When we arrived, we found the board had been in secret session for an hour and when we were admitted, we were neither acknowledged in any way nor did any of the PAWS staff or board members identify themselves. There were not enough chairs and no format or procedures for the meeting were announced. We were simply rudely ignored and made as uncomfortable as possible. Even the lights were turned off in the area into which we were herded.

After finishing their business, they adjourned the meeting, still having never acknowledged our presence. When we protested, they refused to allow us to speak, insisting that our input must be given in writing, something they could have announced an hour earlier so we could have complied. They then called the police and threatened to have us arrested and taken forcibly from the meeting to which we had been invited!

This is the kind of oafish behavior one hardly expects from a non-profit organization that solicits and spends the general public's money. If this is the way PAWS representatives act in public with the press in attendance, one can only wonder what happens behind the scenes. The horror stories told by fleeing employees and volunteers takes on vivid credence after this sad debacle.

Although I was a major contributor to PAWS (I paid their rent for a year), PAWS will not be receiving any further money from me. Furthermore, if they are included in any group fundraising effort, I will not support that event.

It is time for the board of directors of PAWS to realize that a non-profit organization belongs to the public. They exist only to serve the public. That is the reason they do not pay taxes. Perhaps an investigation into how this donated income is being spent is in order at this point in which their tactics have taken such a controversial, erratic turn.

Gordon Salter
San Francisco

A Reader Reads Cleary

The following letter was sent to Ron Lewis, President of the Board of Directors of PAWS, San Francisco:

There has now been an almost 100 percent turnover in staff since the appointment of Maryanne Cleary as Administrator for PAWS. You may add my name to the list of those no longer working in the PAWS office. I will not work for anyone such as Ms. Cleary, who is so completely lacking in any interpersonal or communications skills: her imperious attitude both with employees and volunteers is completely at odds with the supposed caring and compassionate nature of PAWS, to say nothing of her complete lack of regard for our client base. I have never seen Ms. Cleary take one action which I would deem to be in our clients' best interest. Her entire modus operandi is one of office politics and corporate mindfuck games. I find this completely inappropriate from someone heading up an agency which cares for the sick and their innocent pets. Her violation of employee confidentiality in her March 16 letter is not only unprofessional, but illegal. That any employee(s) of a San Francisco AIDS organization, in 1994, should be so treated is, to me, unconscionable. The PAWS administrator admits she does not even like animals!

So I ask you, why is she there? If her instructions from the board are to dismantle PAWS and shut it down, she couldn't be doing a better job. Please know that until the board finds it within themselves to have this person replaced, I will no longer contribute my time and money to a group so sorely lacking in leadership.

The PAWS board, either through its inaction or inattention, is allowing a wonderful organization to be ruined by an unprofessional and uncaring careerist with no knowledge or interest in those she was hired to serve. Ms. Cleary is incapable of adequately functioning to serve the needs of PAWS' client base and should be replaced as soon as possible.

G. Bruce Reader
San Francisco

Supreme Obsession

The retirement/replacement of Justice Blackmun is the big story of 1994.

In his July 1, 1986 dissent in *Hardwick vs. Georgia*, Justice Harry Blackmun blasted the Court's: "... rule of law laid down in the time of Henry IV;" He also blasted their tired old argument "... an abominable crime not fit to be named among Christians" and he further criticized the Court's "obsessive focus on homosexual activity."

I hope President Clinton will appoint someone with as much love of the "right to be let alone" and proven courage (and not someone named Henry!!!). Then, let history show, Justice Harry A. Blackmun's values the ones deeply rooted in this nation's history and traditions.

Jim Currier
San Francisco

Whipped, Naked

The following letter was sent to Chn Hock Seng, First Secretary, Embassy of Singapore, 3501 International Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008:

The caning of Michael Fay should take place. The only thing cruel and unusual about it is that it has not! The moment his last appeal is denied — the sentence should be carried out.

My only concern for Michael is the mental anguish he is suffering from waiting. To be sure, he has lost sleep and his appetite. He should not be tortured in this way.

Since Michael is being made an example, the event should be televised. Televised when every young person in America is watching. We have had enough of the Olympics and ice skating. Let us get on with the new sport of flogging.

Flogging or caning or whipping should be the order of the day for anyone who knows better. Certainly not little children who do not. Any adolescent or adult should receive one lash for each count of mayhem, misdemeanor or felony. For acts of rape, the rapist should be caned in the genital area.

Years ago, in Texas and other states, the training (reform) schools had whipping posts. Boys that caused trouble were routinely whipped, naked, in front of all the other boys and staff. Stripped and whipped! It works. Michael Fay will recover from his wounds. What will hurt him the most is the mockery from his peers.

For those concerned for Michael's plight: a protective cover is placed in the area of the kidneys so as to assure that the blows go to the buttocks. The man administering the punishment is trained in martial arts. They do it well.

Michael's punishment will be swift. The damage to his body will be far less than what time does to our children on drugs.

Wayne Smith
San Francisco

Totally Sexist

Rachel Pepper ends her final column (B.A.R., Apr. 14) lamenting that The Cafe is being taken over on Friday night by a "lot of pushy boys" and that the "fabulous female energy is gone." Give me a break! Whom are these "boys" pushing, the "girls" (Rachel's word, not mine) who have all this energy? Somehow I doubt it. Her column is totally sexist and is typical of the currently politically correct maxim of "women good, men bad."

But forgetting about whether the situation is really as she describes it, the most annoying part of her comments are her closing sentences: "I don't have any solutions for this pathetic situation. Do you?" Yes! I do! It is not really all that complicated: buy the fuckin' place (or some similar place), or open a new place. Yes. It takes money and is hard work and dealing with the necessary permits, etc., is a hassle. But guess what? It is no less of a hassle for men who open clubs!

Rachel claims that there are at least 50 clubs that cater to men — and potential women owners can't even open one?? Perhaps women are choosing to put their money and energy into other endeavors. That is their right! But stop bitching that a particular club on a particular night doesn't have what Rachel has decided is the correct percentage of girls or the right kind of energy. You want such a club? Then get off your butt, open your checkbook, get to work and open such a club.

Buck Rogers
San Francisco

Good News Only, Please

Twice during the year and one half that I have been a resident at Peter Claver Community, my attention has been drawn to articles in your paper verbally illustrating my home as a less than desirable place to live.

I would like to tell you briefly of my experience as a resident in this house. When I first came to Peter Claver, I was exhausted from living with AIDS and drug addiction. I secretly hoped my life would soon end.

Eighteen months later, I live in peace with my disease; I have arrested my drug addiction; ties have been reestablished with my family and I am looking for part-time employment. This complete turn around is largely due to the love and encouragement given to me by staff and residents here.

Like any family, we have our problems. The things that set Peter Claver Community ahead of the rest, is that we are constantly working to make our program better in an atmosphere of love.

I am both hurt and insulted when I read the articles you have published about us. If you are unable to publish something good about our house, please, just leave us alone.

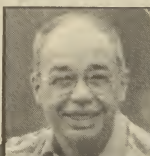
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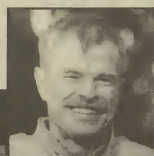


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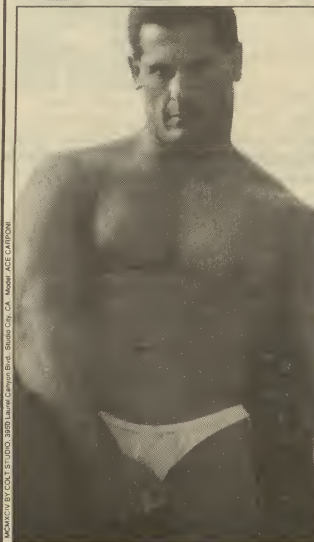
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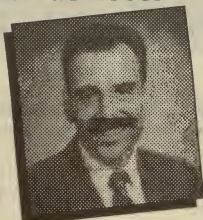
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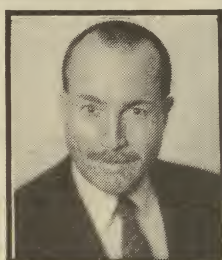
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Letters

"What More Can I Say? Everyone is Gay."

I am not writing this letter in response to anything that was printed. I'm writing this to sort out my feelings. It hasn't even been 24 hours since I heard that Kurt Cobain died. I was so upset, my boss let me go home early. I felt like I had lost a close friend. I never met him, never saw one of his concerts, but I feel like I knew him as many of us do.

Don't get me wrong. I really respect and admire celebrities who come out publicly, but Kurt Cobain connected with me personally on a queer level more than any "out" musician ever did, regardless of his orientation. He went out of his way to mention his hatred of homophobia in interviews, in album sleeves and by playing a "No on 9" benefit when our queer brothers and sisters needed help in Oregon. He spoke openly to the queer press about growing up and experimenting with gay sex. He helped me realize that you don't have to be gay to be queer.

I wish every gay musician would come out and give the next queer generation a face and a name. I wish every non-gay musician who supports gay rights like Kurt did, would speak out in interviews and let people know that they believe it's not o.k. to hate us; it's not o.k. to hurt us, and it's not o.k. to kill us.

I'm angry Kurt killed himself, but I'm happy I had and have his music. And I'm proud of him for supporting queers.

To the music industry: Come Out! Be gay if you are and support gays if you're not!

Moon Trent of Pale
A Queer in a Band in San Francisco

We Are the "Public" in PBS

The following letter was sent to Ervin Dugan, President & CEO, Public Broadcasting Service, 1320 Braddock Pl., Alexandria, VA 22314-1698:

We, the Gay and Lesbian Staff (G.A.L.S.) of KQED, are writing to express our displeasure with PBS concerning its decision to withdraw participation and support from *More Tales of the City*.

Considering the critical acclaim and number of viewers generated by the original *Tales* series, we question why PBS is now willing to turn its back on a successful show which celebrates what should be at the heart of PBS programming: the diversity of culture in America. It is our deep-felt concern that PBS, in an effort to avoid controversy at all costs, has now given in to the homophobic and hateful voices of a very vocal minority.

Our organization, which represents over 28 dedicated staff members at one of the largest public broadcasting stations in this country, has always been proud to be associated with PBS and KQED precisely because of public broadcasting's role in promoting programming which serves the needs of those so often under-represented (and mis-represented) on commercial media. We have always taken great pride in knowing that PBS programming does just what those Hal Riney promotional spots suggest: it reaches out to all creeds and cultures by providing a variety of programs that offer insight and perspective into all lives.

It is our hope that you will make a public proclamation in the immediate future that affirms PBS's commitment to representing the broad spectrum of all cultures in its programming choices. Please do not allow the public perception that PBS has been persuaded by the voices of bigotry and hate to go unchallenged.

The Gay & Lesbian Staff of KQED, Inc.
San Francisco

A Lemon Pledge

The following letter was sent to Mary G.F. Bitterman, Pres. and CEO, KQED, Inc., 2601 Mariposa St., San Francisco, CA 94110:

Had I received your appeal for financial support for KQED just a few weeks ago, I would have gladly responded with a pledge on the basis of my appreciation of your involvement with the telecast of *Tales of the City*. Unfortunately, now I must refuse your request due to my great disappointment that KQED will not participate in funding further installments of the series.

Let me encourage you to re-examine your position regarding *Tales of the City* and to broaden your support for programming (both documentary and entertainment) that appeals to San Francisco's gay community. When I observe renewed commitment to programming that appeals to me and my community, I will gladly write out a check in support of KQED.

Jay T. Lubbers
San Francisco

Write to 'B.A.R.'

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes your letters to the editor. Letters must be signed; anonymous letters will not be published. Please include your mailing address and telephone number so we may verify your letter—this information will not be published. In order to print as many views as possible, we ask letter writers to be brief. To promote diversity in the Open Forum, we favor letters from writers who do not appear frequently, over repeated correspondence from a single author. We prefer that letters be typewritten and double-spaced. Handwritten letters will be considered for publication only if clearly legible. Letters may be edited for length or other appropriate considerations. B.A.R. reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter.

Ranting and Raving

I am writing this letter from New York City where I now live. I get the B.A.R. on a week-delayed basis at A Different Light book store on Hudson Street. I lived in San Francisco for a number of years during which I worked on Electric City in 1987 and 1988.

I just read in last week's paper about Sandy Mack and Electric City's latest battle with Viacom Cable. While I am against censorship, I realize (and surely you must realize) just how full of shit Mack is.

Sandy Mack has been ranting and raving like an hysterical lunatic for years. Most of his "charges" of homophobia have been leveled against members of the gay community. There are only a few people in the community with which he can get along. A lot of his problems are caused by his habit of screaming and cursing uncontrollably at people. It is a known fact that dozens of people, gays and lesbians alike, have left Electric City on bad terms.

There are a number of very real problems facing the community (AIDS, violence, the religious right, rape, etc.). Surely these issues are more worthy of coverage than any more ink on a moron like Sandy Mack.

Debbie Rieck
New York, NY

Calloused to the Abuse

Since you printed the letter from Gloria Sandoval, Executive Director of Shanti Project, in response to an article with which she took some exception, I have been waiting "for the other shoe to drop."

Ms. Sandoval reports, with apparently some satisfaction, that "...of Shanti's total expenses of more than \$4 million, \$1,024,788 (or 25.1 percent) were for administration. Additionally, \$631,788 (or 15.5 percent) were fundraising costs."

In other words, according to Shanti's own Executive Director, 40.6 percent, or almost 41 cents of every dollar raised for services goes to support administration and fundraising!! Critics of the United Way abound, yet the United Way's administration and fundraising total about 15 percent of funds received!

Having spent the majority of my life in the non-profit sector, the usual "yardstick" for a responsible organization was that no more than 25 percent of total expenses could be for administration and fundraising. Yet, I've not seen a single letter in response to Ms. Sandoval's revelation of Shanti's inflated administrative and fundraising costs. Have we become so calloused to the abuse of donated funds that we no longer protest?

If you wish to do your readers a real service, may I suggest you study the audits of all non-profit agencies serving the gay/lesbian communities and inform your readers of the results so that we may all become more educated donors? Popularity should not be an acceptable substitute for productivity and accountability.

John L. Darby
Mill Valley, CA

A la Sylvia Plath

A man recently catapulted off the Golden Gate Bridge.

Knowing Alex a bit, I think he would have gotten a kick from his obituary (B.A.R., Apr. 14), which stated that a memorial was held, "within view of the bridge."

If the time ever comes when I feel it necessary to stick my head into an unlit oven, I sincerely hope my friends will honor me by holding my memorial in the kitchen.

Tony Haze
San Francisco

Ed. Note: Obituaries are written by friends, lovers and/or relatives and are almost always printed without change except for brevity and editorial requirements. It is not always possible to determine the mental state of the writer(s) and whether they intend humor, irony, genuine sorrow or an attempt to honor the particular proclivities of their lost one.

A Salty Old Queen

A month has already gone by and I've wanted to write to commend Mark Freeman for his hysterically funny and apt piece about Danny Kaye's Samuel Goldwyn's 1952 film, *Hans Christian Anderson* in which he pointed out the not-so-subtle (unintentional?) gay coding/imagery contained therein.

I was raised in a bullying, bigoted, conservative right-wing family group ("who meant well") and was taken to phony movies like the latter as a kid. To say that movies like *Hans Christian Anderson* were bewildering in their lack of reality and/or logic is an understatement to be certain. The bigots in my family just loved the lyricism of this phony closeted crap! These genteel people ("who meant well") still give me, a gay man at 43, the options at Christmas, Thanksgiving etc., of showing up with a girl or showing up alone. Needless to say, I spend my holidays elsewhere — where I sing, "Wonderful, Wonderful Copenhagen, salty old queen of the sea." The mind boggles.

Nick Dimos
San Francisco

Democratic Dissing

Unity '94" was the theme of the California State Democratic Party Convention meeting in Los Angeles last week. Well, so much for unity: the confab of some 2,000 delegates and party activists had barely been called to order Friday before gubernatorial candidate John Garamendi was calling principal opponent Kathleen Brown a "cheater" and promised to make her character the main issue when voters go to the polls in the June Democratic primary to choose a nominee to run against incumbent GOP governor Pete Wilson in November.

Commentary

Brown fired back at the multimillionaire rancher/state insurance commissioner by having one of her strongest backers, California Teachers Association lobbyist Alice Huffman, tell off Patti Garamendi, the candidate's wife, during what was supposed to have been a polite women's awards luncheon. Huffman demanded that Mrs. Garamendi have her husband apologize for what she considered "ill-advised dirty tricks." So much for unity, indeed!

What started the sparring match between Brown and Garamendi was the revelation that Brown had apparently been given advance copies of questions that the California Teachers Association asked Garamendi, Tom Hayden, and her at a candidates' forum a few weeks ago.

"She was delivered the questions in advance of a key debate. That is wrong. That is cheating on the exam. Kathleen Brown is a cheater," Garamendi told a press conference during the convention, adding that "my opponent spent \$175,000 to purchase the support of a key lobbyist [Huffman] for the CTA. That was wrong."

In retaliation, Brown had Huffman, who admits to having accepted the "donation" of \$175,000 from the Brown camp (supposedly to be used for "political outreach" in the black community), attack Patti Garamendi. At one point Huffman screamed, "You tell him that when he treats his women the way he did us two women [Huffman and Brown], that when he finishes, he's just gonna be chopped liver, baby, because we ain't stoppin'." Hey, the lady had to do something to show her gratitude for Kathleen's

\$175,000, 'cuz, after all, that kind of bread ain't just "chopped liver, baby!"

Garamendi had nothing to lose (he's way behind in the polls), so he latched on to the "Kathleen's a cheater" theme and now promises to sink a cool \$1 million of his own money into the race. Meanwhile, while these two were slugging it out, Bill Press and other party leaders, fearful of even more conflict, wisely decided not to hold a once-planned, three-way debate between Brown, Garamendi, and Hayden. (Interestingly, many of those San Franciscans attending the convention say Hayden gave the best speech of the entire weekend.) Hence, none of the gubernatorial candidates was endorsed by the party at the convention, although Gray Davis won the nod for lieutenant governor, Tom Umberg for attorney general, Gwen Moore for secretary of state (damn, even the Democrats cannot find it in themselves to endorse a qualified homosexual for statewide office), Assemblyman Rusty Areias for controller, and Art Torres for insurance commissioner. Neither David Roberti nor Phil Angelides won the endorsement for treasurer.

Vice President Al Gore and Senator Dianne Feinstein were the big political stars at the convention, but considering the way Brown's supporters and those pushing John Garamendi managed to make a mockery out of the "unity" theme, Pete Wilson may have been the real winner here.

Politics and people

What the hell is going on at the Milk Democratic Club? It seems their PAC voted last week to not recommend either Supervisor Carole Migden, the county Democratic chair and one of the party's hardest workers (never mind that she's a lesbian and a past Milk Club president), or Matthew Rothschild, the current Toklas Democratic Club president, for re-election to the county Democratic committee in June. Further, the Milk PAC is recommending a straight assemblywoman (Gwen Moore) from Los Angeles over Acting Secretary of State Tony Miller, a very qualified gay man. Remember when someone actually had control of political clubs—at least enough to make sensible recommendations?

The full club votes on the recommendations April 26 and may wiser minds prevail.



Kathleen Brown

Or is this a new low in fringe politics? If Milk wants to salvage any credibility at all, it had damn well better endorse Miller next Tuesday or don't bother to send out renewal letters. (Incidentally, in their wisdom and to their credit, the Toklas Demo Club voted overwhelmingly — 80 percent — for Miller last week.)

Homophobia and bigotry are still alive and well in the Lone Star State: Democrats and activists for AIDS causes chided the Galveston, Texas County GOP Committee last week for passing a resolution calling for the immediate quarantine of people with HIV.

Clinton's Golden State boost: Whitewater and personal tax woes aside, Californians continue to love Bill Clinton, thanks primarily to an improving economy and massive infusions of federal earthquake aid. A new poll taken April 1-9 finds only one in three Californians believe the Clintons committed any wrongdoing in connection with the Whitewater real estate deal, and a whopping 76 percent rate the president's job performance as either excellent, good, or fair. In contrast to California, the latest USA Today/CNN Gallup poll finds only 51 percent nationwide give him passing grades.

Senator Barbara Boxer's daughter Nicole will marry Hillary Clinton's brother Anthony Rodham in a May 28 White House ceremony, and a lot of Boxer's longtime Democratic Party "friends" are reportedly clamoring for invites.

And there was SF Mayor Frank Jordan garnering a full hour of national C-SPAN time from Washington last week while attending the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Jordan more than held his own

(Continued on page 17)

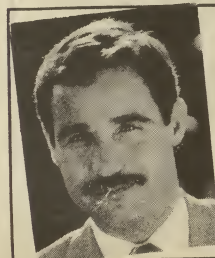
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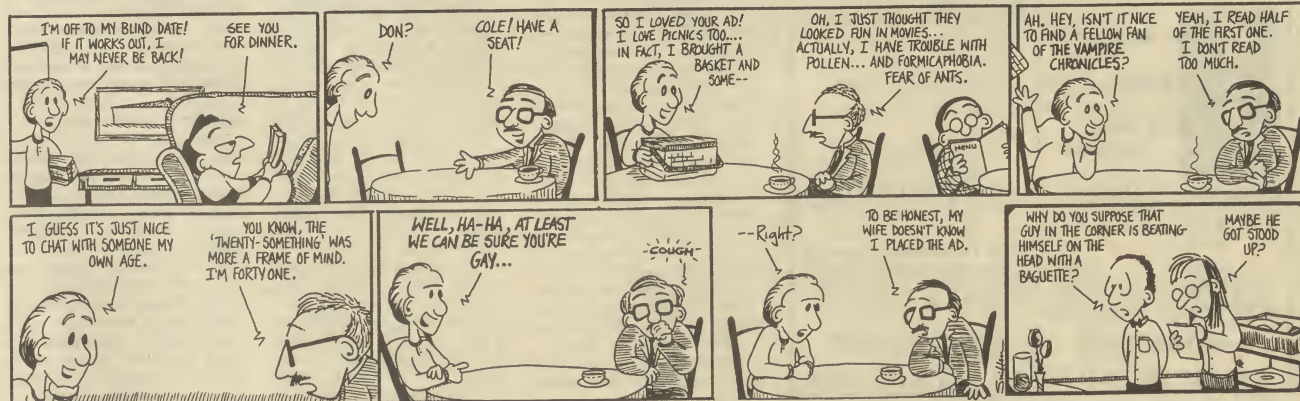
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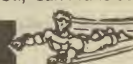
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Dykeotomy

Help for SISS Sufferers

by Nancy Boutillier

What two words can destroy a passionate, committed relationship faster than "I do?"

If your answer is, "Play ball!" then you, too, may be experiencing that phenomenon known as Softball Induced Spousal Separation (SISS).

I used to think SISS was a lesbian-specific disorder, this strain on loving relationships marked by softball season. However, San Francisco's Gay Softball League is living,

Commentary

batting, running proof that gay men can be just as swept up in the magic of high-arching pitches as the hardest hitting of lesbian shortstops.

Some of you may already be too well acquainted with the diamond's magnetism. Perhaps you have acknowledged its power over someone you love. You've watched as a friend fell deeply under the spell of that seamy sphere. Or maybe you've even lost a lover to that leather fetish centered on cleats and a glove.

With the Gay Games scheduled for June, surely softball is not the only sport whose spring training threatens to unravel the center of otherwise tight relationships.

Well, as one who has lived through a few seasons in the company of a girlfriend with a golden glove and a loaded arm, I have, over the innings — I mean years — developed a few strategies for saving my sanity when softball has stolen my sweetie away from me.

I share them with those of you who know too well that it ain't over till it's over.

Nod and echo

First, maintaining effective communication through the long season is important for a lasting relationship. Learn to nod and echo. You don't have to know anything about the game — not the rules, not the strategies, not even the lingo — but when your girlfriend or boyfriend starts to talk softball, just nod and echo.

For instance, here's a sample dialogue (guys, change the names and pronouns as you wish):

Her: We didn't get a runner on until the bottom of the sixth when Alice doubled to left and Monica sacrificed her to third ...

You (nodding): Alice doubled. Monica moved her. (Note: It helps to look off into the distance, as if to suggest that you are imagining this all on a ball field in your mind.)

Her: Two walks loaded the bases, and Dara unleashed a shot. The throw from the outfield was on the money, but the catcher dropped the ball!

You: Dropped the ball.

Her (hugging you with excitement): Yup, and that was it. We won another one.

You (hugging back): That's great, honey. You won another one.



Softball widows congregate to cheer on their more athletically inclined loved ones.

(Photo: Nancy Boutillier)

Just like misery, abandonment to softball loves company. The worst thing you can do when your loved one is at the ball park is stay home alone. Although some softball spouses prefer to avoid the field altogether, I believe that the long-term effects of such a strategy are fatal to the relationship. I say, face the music. And the song is "Take Me Out to the Ball Game."

The sidelines can feel like a lonely place, but you should never feel alone. Remember, where there's one softball spouse, there are at least nine others. And what fun it is to spend the afternoon looking sporty in the sunshine and gathering gossip! Ten times out of ten, the other softball spouses won't pay any more attention to the game than you will. Collectively, however, you who have the common goal of tending to your cleated companion will find that you can keep track just enough so that when the teams are shaking hands — evidence that the game is finally over — you will know who won.

At this point, most of your comrades-in-lawnc chairs will be focusing their attention on their own sweethearts. It's well worth listening to their observations at these moments, as the comments can be very telling: "Uh-oh, Lindy just told Spike to go to hell!" "No one looks too cheery, do they?" "Was that Pat who just punched your lover?"

As you can see, knowing which team wins is only half the battle of knowing how to greet your lover after the game. Greetings depend not only on which team wins, but also on your loved one's performance, the number of bruises sustained, field conditions, umpire calls, league standings, as well as the moon's tilt and the coach's zodiac sign.

Even when you think you know exactly what your loved one wants to hear, you still only have a 50-50 chance of being right.

For instance (gals, it's your turn to rearrange pronouns), if your boyfriend plays well, but his team loses, then he will need to publicly display disappointment with the defeat. Generally, it is not a good idea to run up to him yelling "great catch" for a spectacular play he made in the second inning of a 10-2 loss, doing so might threaten his relationship with his teammates who could care less about that catch.

Experience has taught me to wait in my lawnchair (the low, fold-up ones are my preference) until my girlfriend greets me. This way she and her teammates can process the game — what a fellow sufferer of SISS calls "doing that

team thing!"

Post-game greetings

I have developed this repertoire of post-game greetings: 1) celebration, 2) congratulations, 3) comfort, and 4) the non-greeting which approximates invisibility, for those times when she wants most to be alone, but I am, for better or worse, there.

Celebration is the easiest, but rarest, post-game activity. Like all at-the-field interaction, following the lead of your loved one is one of the best ways to cope with the strains of SISS. Feel free to celebrate with other spouses whenever you like, but celebration with a lover in uniform requires that you, a mere spectator, be submissive. Only championship games or a major upset will provide an opportunity for celebration on the field with your lover. In the case of celebration, the off-the-field activities are usually well-worth attending. Everyone's in good cheer, and you can expect your lover to be just as eager to return home to celebrate one-on-one as you are.

Generally, however, not all post-game socializing is good for your relationship. Individual couples need to work out their own arrangements, but the compromise I recommend is the "Take Back the Night" approach, otherwise known as the menage a twilight. I happily share my girlfriend with her team during the twilight hours, during which she belongs to softball. In the later hours, however, I expect her to be fully mine. It's only fair.

My other trick to maintaining balance in this configuration is Hepburn, my trusty, non-softball playing, canine companion. Rather than competing with softball for attention, I simply shift mine elsewhere while at the ball park. On days when I don't feel like watching softball, I rationalize away my time at the park as an extended dog walk with Hepburn. (Don't forget the pooper scooper.)

Not only are dogs wonderful companions for the ups and downs of the game, but they also have a remarkable sense of smell that seems to tip them off to the post-game moods of players. And that can be handy for spouses.

Hepburn is particularly useful in those non-greeting moments when my girlfriend wants to stew. I can focus on Hepburn without feeling the intensity of my girlfriend's wish to be alone.

In my family, Hepburn helps to balance the scales of SISS. My girlfriend has learned to share me with my dog during the early evening hours. But, later in the evening, she expects me to be fully hers. It's only fair. ▼

World Institute on Disability Addresses New HIV Realities

by Mary Richards

As people with HIV and AIDS live longer and more productive lives, the issues that surround the disease are changing. The change brings challenges, and some of those new challenges were met when the World Institute on Disability (WID) held a national training on HIV/AIDS for vocational rehabilitation specialists.

The training was held in Oakland on April 13-15, and involved collaboration with agencies in four states with the highest number of AIDS cases — California, New York, New Jersey, and Florida. The goal is to improve rehabilitation services in those states and "share information, experience, and effective service delivery models with the rehabilitation agencies in other states."

In other words, even the experts in each field of rehabilitation still need training when it comes to AIDS. The public also needs to be trained, because it is evident that people with HIV and AIDS are not accessing the services available to them through their state vocational rehab systems.

Although it has a rather prepossessing title, the World Institute on Disability is located right in our backyard, Oakland. It was founded 11 years ago by key leaders in the disability rights movement, and is "dedicated to building a world environment that supports the independence of people with disabilities."

WID's international work has taken representatives as far as Russia to implement services for citizens there; closer to home they've set up a special project to deal with HIV and AIDS as a disability that will demand increasing attention in the workplace.

Project manager Elissa Chandler explains the training involved: "We are working with four of the five states that have the highest number of AIDS cases, to improve their employment assistance services such as job training, placement; and a variety of services that help people get employed, stay employed, maintain employment, and go back to work after disability. We're trying to improve that system and we're developing a national model of service that can be used by all states in this regard."

The idea that HIV/AIDS is labeled as a "disability" may have negative connotations to many people, but it's not the label that counts — it's the available services that are attached to that label. Utilized to their full extent, those services can improve the quality of life in the workplace, whether a person is employed full or part-time.

When the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was passed, it included AIDS as a disability and gave equal access to employment opportunities for persons with HIV. But the political and social nature of the AIDS epidemic has delayed the implementation of many services for the very people it was designed to help.



Doris Butler (left), co-facilitator, and Elissa Chandler, project manager, of the AIDS and Disability Project workshop to train key rehabilitation people from four states. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Chandler says, "Traditionally, people with HIV don't use those disability services; they don't use rehabilitation as much as AIDS services or other services. They don't necessarily know that these services exist. So there's a real big problem with access. 'States need to train their staffs to know how to deal with AIDS as a new disability, because it is a disability. People need to be aware that they're eligible for legal protection and for new services that they haven't availed themselves of.'"

What are the options?

For many people who have been diagnosed the choices are slim: some hide their diagnosis and keep working at the same pace (which can be debilitating depending on their health status), or leave their jobs and take advantage of the Social Security system. But there are alternatives to those two choices, and as HIV and AIDS affect more people in working environments these options will become more commonplace.

Chandler spoke about what the vocational rehab system can do now. "It can help people that are HIV-positive, for example, that are really well enough to find work, and counsel them as to how to decide whether or not to disclose [their diagnoses] to their employer, and help them understand the reasonable accommodations as disabled people they can get on the job."

"There are people with AIDS and people who are symptomatic who don't want to leave their work. It can help people who are already working understand how to maintain employment and how to work and get reasonable accommodation on the job, such as flexible work schedules, telecommuting, time off to go to doctor's appointments, a whole variety of things depending on what someone's issues are."

What department of the state system gives out this kind of advice? Chandler says it's "The State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. Basically they help disabled people work, and they are tied to a whole range of disability-related services that are available to people. If a person is discriminated on the job and

they have a counselor in the system, that counselor can tie into legal resources and help them understand that they've been discriminated against and what to do about it."

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act people are eligible to ask for on the job accommodation for their disability — or "reasonable accommodation" as the term is known. But, as Chandler points out, "You have to ask for it. The accommodations for HIV and AIDS aren't as obvious or as defined as other disabilities. For example, if someone is visually impaired you can use a computer chip that has a voice and other adaptive equipment, but what do you do for someone who has chronic fatigue? What do you do for someone who has wasting? There are things you can do, you can pad a chair. Or you can provide rest periods."

The rehabilitation specialists that were brought together for the training were exposed to a variety of topics: psychosocial and medical; legal and policy; business and employment; federal perspectives, and independent living and disability. A working session on the third day of training brought together people with HIV/AIDS (or "consumers," as they are called in the rehab system) to interact with specialists from the four states.

Doris Butler, co-facilitator of the WID training, has been diagnosed with HIV and lost a son to AIDS. She works part-time for WID and through that work now identifies herself as a disabled person. But her "disability" is no barrier to the challenges of life or to participating in the changes that she envisions.

"I realize," she says, "the disability system has many services and tools I can use to cope with living with HIV. My biggest battles now are with the disability system; a system which has no incentives to work, housing restrictions, and very narrow parameters for supplementing your income, and one which has not kept up with the changing aspects of HIV disease. We are not just getting sick and dying, but living longer and healthier."

Elissa Chandler and Doris Butler can be reached for advice at the World Institute on Disability at (510) 763-4100. ▼

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Check it out

New Tavern Guild President Don Thompson (left) turns over a check for \$1,750.00 to Mae Hughes and Jan Durban of the Godfather Service Fund at Aunt Charlie's bar on Tuesday, April 12.

(Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

Marshal Artist: RuPaul To Preside Over LA Parade

by Karen Ocam

Seeking to officially squelch rumors and concerns that this year's Christopher Street West Parade and Festival in Southern California might not take place because of budget constraints, CSW President Michael Yates has announced the successful completion of negotiations, both with the host city of West Hollywood and with the prospective grand marshal.

Yates announced the grand

marshal for the event will be RuPaul, America's most successful African-American drag performer since Flip Wilson. As a tribute to "Stonewall 25: A Global Celebration," this year's theme, RuPaul will introduce a new song called "Free 2 B."

CSW and the city of West Hollywood agreed to a contract at a City Council meeting Monday, April 18. The producing organization, still reeling from last year's over-

budget expenditures — Yates says they are still about \$40,000 in the red — still has to finalize an agreement with the Sheriff's Department on the cost of providing security for the parade and festival.

In deference to New York's announced Stonewall anniversary celebration, the CSW parade and festival will take place on June 11-12, instead of the traditional end of June. San Francisco's celebration will be held June 18-19. ▼

GLAAD Media Watch

No More Tales

by Al Kielwasser

The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) has decided not to fund the sequel to *Tales of The City*, one of the highest-rated programs ever distributed by the network. PBS executives claim that the sequel — *More Tales of The City* — would not provide programming that is "new, different, controversial, and interesting."

This plea for the "new" and "different" comes from a network that has provided years of *Wall Street Week*, but has yet to support such national lesbian/gay programming as *In The Life*. In an independent survey published last year, researchers examined 114 episodes of PBS public affairs programs and could not find a single lesbian or gay representative.

Unfortunately, viewers might be in for further cutbacks of lesbian and gay programming. Confidential information obtained from PBS sources indicates that new PBS president (and former George Bush lackey) Ervin Duggan will continue the retreat from truly diverse, multicultural programming. According to GLAAD's source, Duggan feels that PBS should not broadcast programs that "Americans find distasteful" — specifically programs that deal with lesbian/gay themes or abortion.

Duggan's position is not only distasteful, it's criminal. After all, the mission of PBS — as mandated by Congress — is to "help us see America whole, in all its diversity" and to "provide a voice for groups in the community that may otherwise be unheard."

Contact Ervin Duggan, President, PBS, 1320 Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22314-1698. Telephone: 703-739-5000 or tel. 800-356-2626. Richard Carlson, President and CEO, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, 901 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004-2037.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has already sent Duggan a letter registering their concern about the network's decision to axe *More Tales*, which only Annemarie Conroy and Willie Kennedy failed to sign. Send your own letters to these supervisors to City Hall, San Francisco CA 94102.

Under-Exposure

On May 2nd, CBS's *Northern Exposure* will once again explore lesbian/gay themes. This time, the series will feature the marriage of Ron and Erick (who play the town's gay innkeepers). While CBS has been generally supportive of the program, the network refuses to

portray a kiss between the two characters as they wed. Executive Producer Andrew Schindler has acknowledged that a man and woman would surely be shown kissing in the same dramatic situation, but — he rationalizes — the show's producers are trying to "unload a loaded issue."

Send your letters — sealed with a kiss — to Jeff Sagansky, CBS Entertainment, 7800 Beverly Blvd., L.A., CA 90036, tel. 213-852-2345.

Out in the Hills

On the April 6th episode of *Beverly Hills 90210*, Brandon and Steve accidentally discover Steve's fraternity president, Mike Ryan, hanging "out" at a gay coffee house. The young Beverly Hillbillies struggle over whether or not they should keep Mike's secret. Later, when Steve is taunted by a homophobic frat brother, he outs Mike to deflect the heat. Soon Mike finds his door painted pink and his "brothers" wanting him out of their ranks. Over the course of the show, Steve comes to see the destructive power of bigotry.

At a special house meeting, the homophobe argues: "What kind of pledges are we going to attract? Who's going to show up to join a gay fraternity?" With Steve's encouragement, Mike speaks out, recalling "the first African-American pledge who dared to challenge this fraternity's color line, ... the first Hispanic brother, the first Jewish brother, and the first Asian-American brother." Steve also stands up for Mike, stating: "This is about brotherhood and loyalty. If that is just lip service and a secret handshake to you all, then this fraternity and everything it stands for is a joke." In the end, all the brothers express support for their now openly gay president, and the homophobe leaves in a huff.

Send feedback to Lucie Salhany, President, Fox Broadcasting, P.O. Box 900, Beverly Hills CA 90213, tel 310-277-2211.

Media Briefs

• "Women's Wire" is an online service established to serve the information, communication and networking needs of women. For details, contact Women's Wire, 435 Grand Ave., Suite D, South San Francisco, CA 94080, tel. 415-615-8989, fax 415-615-8990.

• Tuesday, May 3rd is the date for the ACLU's third annual "Speak Up" First Amendment conference for high school students; "Violence in School and in the Media" and "Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual Rights" are among the scheduled presentations. For information, call 415-621-2006, ext. 52. ▼



90210 cast members cavort on the beach. A recent episode on the show confronted homophobia.

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Joel Reyna, Jr., volunteers as a support group facilitator for the **PLUS** (Positive Living for US) Seminar, a week-end workshop focussed on information and empowerment for people of all colors and genders trying to meet the challenges of testing HIV+. Topics introduced at the seminar include medical basics and drug treatment options; sexuality; stress reduction; alternative therapies; nutrition; insurance; public benefits; legal issues; HIV and recovery; access to health care and techniques for emotional well-being.

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Profile

Some Mohr Words of Wisdom

by Bob Roehr

Richard Mohr is a genial bear of a man, a professor of philosophy who is comfortable enough with his own sexuality to have dedicated one of his books to "my husband." This budding columnist and author, who has in recent years become one of the more highly regarded and provocative thinkers on gay and lesbian issues, visited San Francisco on Sunday, April 17 to read from his works at A Different Light.

Gay Ideas: Outing and Other Controversies, his first book, was rejected by 23 printers before its publisher, Beacon Press, picked it up. The work uses controversial photos by Robert Mapplethorpe and other gay artists. Despite its infamy, *Gay Ideas* earned Editor's Choice accolades at the 1992 Lambda Literary Awards. Another book, *Gays/Justice: A Study of Ethics, Society and Law*, won the 1988 Gustavus Myers Center Outstanding Book Award for the best book on the subject of intolerance.

A More Perfect Union: Why Straight America Must Stand Up for Gay Rights, Mohr's latest work, covers the same terrain as his other books, but with a slightly different twist. He calls it "Richard Mohr nice," an appellation that sets this latest work in stark contrast to his "nastier" books. *Perfect Union* is a moral, ethical, and legal primer on major issues confronting the gay and lesbian community. There are few new revelations in the book, but the clarity and focus of Mohr's argument and his grasp on the issues facing gays and lesbians is stronger than ever. The book, in many respects, is a stripped down, less academic reworking of earlier efforts, but his synopses never become superficial and, in fact, gain power with brevity.

Union is a superb introduction for the neophyte who wishes to seriously explore gay and lesbian issues, be that reader gay or straight.

Here are some of Mohr's observations, captured in conversation with Bay Area Reporter writer Bob Roehr:

Richard Mohr: It is unlikely we are going to get political progress by pandering to people and selling out our dignity. The military issue seemed to me a paradigm of what we should not be doing. One compromise led to another, to another, to another, and finally to the worst possible political result: we have egg on our face from our supposed friends. Many people claim this is okay, that this is a stepping stone for progress. These are people who are unwilling to face moral reality and see that this was a giant step backwards.

BR: Do you think we put too much faith in Bill Clinton?

We certainly put too much faith in him, we let him go on too long uncriticized. It would have been much better to have had the March on Washington be targeted at Bill Clinton. The gay leadership was totally snookered by having been greeted at the White House.

Torie Osborn was quoted



Author Richard Mohr.

in the *New York Times* as saying what a friend we have in Bill Clinton, while at the same time saying, 'oh well, I wasn't completely overwhelmed.' And yet she resorts to that sort of religious vocabulary, what a friend we have. Suddenly Bill Clinton has been equated with Jesus. I mean, if that's the best we have going for our leadership, then something else is needed.

Even the *New York Times* was more assertive than any of our leaders. They came out and said that Clinton should have acted unilaterally, that if generals had resigned, he would replace them.

What, if anything, should we look for from Clinton?

Nothing. Clinton doesn't even have the courage to issue an executive order banning discrimination in the federal government. He is doing it department by department, if that.

His record on civil rights issues is fairly abysmal. From the Haitian boat people, which was really a race issue, to collapsing on the kiddie porn case, every single case where a principled stand was called for, he gave in.

What about Barney Frank?

Barney Frank is morally, totally discredited by what he did [on the military issue]. I think the gay community should just disregard him. That was the very worst thing that happened in the whole de-evolution of the military policy.

The Democrats have done us no good. If you look at the history of the civil rights movement, partisan politics has not been a good indicator of progress. For example, Eisenhower, when push came to shove, was much better on civil rights issues than the Kennedys. He was a good trooper, did his duty, sent the troops in, whereas the Kennedys simply suspended the 14th Amendment in Alabama.

Affirmative action got its biggest boost from who? Richard Nixon. So it doesn't seem to me that gays should be entangled with either party. A higher proportion of Republicans voted for the 1964 Civil Rights Act than did Democrats.

What should we look for from our national organizations?

If you have a national organization, it seems to me national issues should be the focus. And focusing on the federal civil rights bill would be an ideal target. Maybe that's years and years away.

I'm sure the next question is going to get you sputtering. Bruce Bauer, A Place at the Table?

I like the second chapter, where he criticizes conservatives. And I think he makes points that a liberal like me would miss. The rest of the book was too long-winded for its content. It really did seem to me, at heart, to be Booker T. Washingtonism, that we just play along with the dominant culture and they'll just love us. Just pick cotton and

(Continued on page 21)

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Cal. Domestic Partners Bill Clears First Hurdle

by Marghe Covino
B.A.R. Capitol Correspondent

SACRAMENTO — The tiny hearing room for the Assembly Judiciary Committee in the state Capitol was packed last Wednesday, April 13. The proposed bill on which the committee was to vote, sponsored by Assemblyman Richard Katz, D-Sylmar, allowed domestic partners to register with the secretary of state, ensure that they can visit each other in hospitals, and make it easier for a surviving member to distribute their partner's property.

Traditional Values Coalition-led Bible-bearing evangelical opponents of the bill stood shoulder to shoulder with its proponents — including senior citizens, health care providers, gays and lesbians from throughout the state — plus Capitol staffers, the press, and the curious in the standing-room-only spectator area.

Senior citizens and members of the Grey Panther Party testified in favor of the bill, and later expressed concern that TVC supporters were urging the committee to exclude gays and lesbians from the bill; opponents of the measure — even those who agreed that the committee could vote to "do something" for senior citizens who "need compassion and need to be taken care of" — want gays, lesbians, and others who don't meet specific moral standards excluded because their participation in domestic partners relationships would

somehow "reduce" marriage and would ensure the downfall of civilization. Yet they agreed that the committee could vote to "do something" for senior citizens who "need compassion and need to be taken care of."

During the hearing, committee chair Phil Isenberg, D-Sacramento, kept a tight rein on spectators, threatening to clear the room if "any laughter or any demonstrations of any kind go on." Even so, the evangelicals muttered — quietly — against proponents' testimony and "signified" during testimony of their leader, Lou Sheldon of the TVC.

After which, they watched helplessly as the bill passed out of the committee with a unanimous 8-0 vote. Later, committee member Bill Morrow, R-Orange County, recorded a no vote. (Members are allowed to go on the record by voting after a matter is decided — it is pro forma, as their votes cannot affect the outcome after the fact.)

Predictably, Sheldon was focused on homosexuality: while seated in the audience waiting to testify against the bill, he could be seen muttering to his followers. He was obviously dismayed that non-gays who would benefit from the bill were testifying for it. "They're not going to let us talk about the homosexuals," he kept repeating nervously.

"Seniors were very concerned about anyone, especially gays, being cut out of the bill's provisions," said



Laurie McBride, director of the LIFE Lobby.

(Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

Laurie McBride, executive director of the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (better known as LIFE Lobby), "and thought the entire debate raised by the religious right was stupid."

Miles to go...

According to McBride, the bill still has to go to Assembly Ways and Means Committee before it hits the assembly floor, and she believes the votes will be there to get the bill to the senate side by the end of June. "We have to get it to the Governor's desk by September," she said. That means if the bill passes the assembly it will then have to re-

peat a similar journey through a policy committee, a fiscal committee, and the floor in the senate — and if amendments have been made the bill will have to go back to the floor of the assembly for final confirmation — all in

"Seniors were very concerned about anyone, especially gays, being cut out of the bill's provisions."

—Laurie McBride
Executive Director of
LIFE

the next five or six months. McBride is already working on some "minor, technical wording" amendments.

On the way to the hearing, Sheldon displayed a file on "homosexual issues" to a man riding in the elevator with him, complaining about gays "taking over." The man, who is gay and who was testifying for the bill, grinned at Sheldon and said, "Yeah, I know. Ain't America wonderful?"

When that man, Tony Barrett, testified, legislators were visibly moved. He spoke of his friend whose partner of ten years recently died.

"In the hospital, my friend, Paul, couldn't be at his partner's bedside in his last days," Barrett told the committee. "The patient had pneumocystis and a high fever so he was intubated and couldn't speak. Hospital authorities wouldn't

let Paul in until his partner managed to scribble Paul's name on a piece of paper."

According to Barrett, Paul never left the hospital waiting room and then never left his partner's bedside after he was finally allowed in. His partner died the next day. "His death was unexpected, they weren't ready for it to happen so soon, so they didn't have the paperwork in place. He and Paul talked about some of the things he wanted to see happen," Barrett recalled, "and even though his parents had not seen or spoken to him in 17 years, he always sent them holiday and anniversary cards. He wanted them notified. So when he died, Paul notified them and then I took him home overnight so he could gather the strength to go back into their home," Barrett said.

"When we arrived at the house the next day, his family was there loading up the furniture. They evicted Paul and sold the property," Barrett testified.

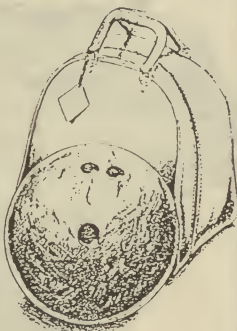
In contrast to Barrett's morally compelling testimony, the bill's opponents simply tried to compel morality: Art Crony, lobbyist for the so-called Committee on Moral Concerns, said the benefits for gay couples would legitimize "the most dangerous lifestyle in America."

Now that the bill is on a fast track, McBride has cancelled a trip to Hawaii to stay in Sacramento and work it through the process. "I believe this bill has a good chance of passing," she said. "I'm giving it lots of energy — earlier I worked hard not to get emotionally invested, but now, we're going flat out." ▼

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Sacto Contact Tracing Bills

by Marghe Covino
B.A.R. Capitol Correspondent

SACRAMENTO — Wednesday, April 13, was a red-letter committee day at the Capitol building for the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE Lobby). While lobbyist Laurie McBride racked up a civil rights win on the statewide Domestic Partners bill in Assembly Judiciary, health issues lobbyist Robert Rios knocked one out of the ballpark in Senate Health Committee.

The bill, SB 1432, which would amend the Health and Safety code to make HIV a reportable, sexually transmitted disease, was introduced by Don Rogers, R-Bakersfield, sponsored by the California Physicians Advisory Committee and aided by Capitol Resource Institute, the millionaire Ahmanson/Hurt-funded lobby.

"We have to stop treating this bill like a civil right," Rogers said. "This is the only disease with civil rights." Rogers repeated the now-familiar rhetoric while asking for partner notification and contact tracing.

County health officials stood opposed to the measure, saying counties can't afford to carry out current mandates with other sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV contact tracing would only add another burden — one that would be impossible to enforce — to the list. County



Republican state Senator Don Rogers.

health officers were joined by the California Nurses Association, the AIDS community, the American Civil Liberties

"If you mandate a list of partners, it's unenforceable — but you've created a new class of criminals."
— Assemblymember
Mike Thompson

Union, and Planned Parenthood. It would be impossible to have HIV patients submit to periodic inspections, opponents said, and absurd to expect truly accurate lists of the

Meanwhile, in Hawaii ... Senate Bans Same-Sex Marriage

by Rene Astudillo

By a vote of 21 to three, Hawaii's state senate approved a bill on Tuesday, April 12 that would ban the licensing of marriages between same-sex couples. The bill, authored by state Senator Rey Gaulty, had previously been "killed" in the ten-member senate judiciary committee because it did not have enough votes to approve it for full Senate consideration. However, opponents of same-sex marriage succeeded in moving the bill out of the committee and into the full Senate.

While the bill defines marriage as limited to male-female couples, it also sets up a commission to study legalizing domestic partnerships that could give registered same-sex couples most of the legal rights married couples have. Supporters of same-sex marriage find the bill discriminatory and not quite to the full satisfaction of their demand for equality. "We see domestic partnership as an incremental step towards our final goal of equality in marriage," stated Maggie Tanis, spokesperson for the Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project (HERMP), "but it's still a case of separate and unequal."

Couple Who Procreate...

A couple of months ago, a different version of a bill banning same-sex marriage was passed by the state house of representatives by a vote of 34 to 17. Introduced by Representative

Terrence Tom, the house bill limits marriage to couples who appeared to have the ability to procreate. The next step in the legislative battle is for both the senate and the house of representatives to iron out the differences between the two bills through a conference committee.


Public debate has been raging in Hawaii on whether the issue of same-sex marriage should be resolved by the Courts or the Legislature. Last April 7, the Hawaii Catholic Conference (HCC) issued a memorandum to pastors and parish leaders, asking them to urge their senators to vote in favor of the bill banning same-sex marriage. Some pastors reproduced the memo and distributed copies to church attendees last Sunday. The memo, signed by Reverend Marc Alexander, HCC coordinator, stressed the need to communicate to the Hawaii Supreme Court that the court's intervention on the matter of same-sex marriage "encroaches on the functions of the legislature in its law-making functions, thereby impinging on the separation of powers on the respective branches of government."

A gay Catholic attending Sunday mass at St. Augustine church in Waikiki angrily commented: "Well, what about the separation of church and state? Why doesn't the Catholic Church keep its hands off in this civil matter over which it has no jurisdiction? Besides, Rev-

erend Alexander should be aware that while there is separation of powers among the branches of government there is also a constitutional guarantee of 'checks and balance.' Certainly, the Hawaii Supreme Court can rule on the constitutionality of the actions by our lawmakers!"

It will not be until April of 1995 that the court case involving three same-sex couples who sued the state for refusing to grant them marriage licenses will again come before the Hawaii Supreme Court. The high court had earlier ruled in favor of same-sex marriage and required the state to prove "compelling interest" in discriminating on the basis of gender. ▼

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names of sex and needle partners.

"Doctors already have the right and authority under the current law to do all of the things this bill purports to want done, in a way that has the cooperation of the HIV/AIDS community," Rios said. "It's ridiculous to try to make it a crime for a person with HIV to move without notifying the county. What are we going to do - fill the jails with people who give a change of address?"

"Think about that," Rios insisted. "Think about the lack of care in prisons and county jails: do we really want to make criminals out of people who don't give a complete list of partners? How are you going to force people to give the names?"

Committee member Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, agreed, saying, "If you mandate a list of partners, it's unenforceable - but you've created a new class of criminals."

Rios told the committee that names reporting is a deterrent to testing. "People will simply not get tested," he said. "You're defeating the purpose of what needs to be done. This bill is destructive - it would virtually eliminate anonymous testing."

When even Senator Tim Leslie, R-Carmel/Bay, said it was clear the bill was "not going anywhere," Rogers attempted to amend the bill to make enforcement optional. Leslie asked if Rios would ac-

cept making it a pilot project in one county. Rios refused.

"There is no way to evaluate such a project, there is no baseline," he told the B.A.R. "The only thing it would do is allow one county to get a list of names for one year."

The bill was defeated on a 4-3 vote with Los Angeles Democrats Diane Watson, Teresa Hughes, and Herschel Rosenthal joining Mike Thompson in voting against the bill, while Tim Leslie, Cathie Wright, R-Simi Valley, and Frank Hill, R-Whittier, voted for it.

Even with a virtual victory at hand, Rios worries. "The bill's not dead yet," he said. "Rogers has asked for reconsideration of the bill and that hearing hasn't been scheduled yet. But the flaws in the bill were pretty obvious and it was a substantial defeat."

Of even more concern to him now is a companion bill, AB 3207, authored by religious right wing-sponsored Pete Knight of Palmdale. Rios said the bill, which would also make HIV infection reportable to county health officers, has "been exposed as a disincentive to testing - they've virtually had to walk away from it." But even though it has been virtually gutted, it's worth keeping an eye on. "You never know until the hearing's over," he warned.

AB 3207 will be heard in the Assembly Health Committee within the week. ▼

EVENTS

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Nevirapine

For volunteers with from 200-500 CD4 T-cells. Nevirapine is a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor. Two groups are being sought: (A) people who have taken AZT for between 4 and 12 months, who will be assigned at random to take either AZT and 400 mg of nevirapine per day, or AZT and a placebo, or (B) people who have never taken any antiviral drugs, who will take either nevirapine or a placebo.

Delavirdine

HIVCare is conducting two studies of the non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor Delavirdine (U-90, BHAP). The first study is seeking HIV+ volunteers with from 200-500 CD4 T-cells and fewer than 6 months of prior AZT (no other prior antivirals allowed). The second study seeks HIV+ volunteers with fewer than 300 CD4 T-cells and fewer than 4 months prior ddI (unlimited prior AZT allowed). Potential participants are urged to call soon, as these are very popular studies.

For more information about these and other studies contact Mark Bowers at (415) 353-6215. HIVCare is a program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, 900 Hyde Street, San Francisco 94109.

National News

Is Joe Kennedy a Democrat?

Maybe, but with Friends Like These, Who Needs Republicans?

by Trixi Burke

It almost seems impossible to imagine, but U.S. Representative Joseph P. Kennedy 2nd, (D-MA), son of liberal Robert Kennedy and nephew of JFK, has become praiseworthy in the opinion of Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition. One of the reasons is his April vote forbidding schools across America to encourage or support homosexuality as a positive "life-style alternative."

"We applaud his courage to stand up and vote for family values," a Coalition spokesperson said of Kennedy.

Kennedy's recent votes for GOP-sponsored legislation included supporting a school prayer bill; a bill to halt federal aid to schools that do not teach abstinence as the only effective protection against AIDS and unwanted pregnancy; and the Hancock Amendment to HR6 (the education reform act), which included language that prohibits funding schools that "implement or carry out a program or activity that has either the purpose of effect of encouraging or supporting homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative," including referring any student to an "organization that affirms a homosexual lifestyle."

The Hancock Amendment, favored by conservatives as a way to keep positive portrayals of homosexuality out of schools, passed by a vote of 301-to-120.

That amendment, proposed by GOP Representative Mel Hancock of Missouri, was countered by an amendment offered by Representative Jolene Unsoeld (D-WA). Favored by progressives, the Unsoeld Amendment made the Hancock Amendment's prohibitions unenforceable and passed in a close vote. Kennedy voted in favor of both amendments.

In an interview with the *Boston Globe*, Kennedy said his votes indicate he would part with his own party if he felt strongly enough about the proposed legislation.

"It's about time the Democratic Party stood up for some of the basic values and be proud of it and not be embarrassed by it or try to hide from it," Kennedy said. "I don't think they should be encouraging" homosexuality in the schools.

Kennedy's press spokesperson Brian O'Connor told the Boston-based gay newspaper *IN Newsweekly* the Congressman was not "backing away from his essential point, not to teach homosexuality as a positive lifestyle. That does not mean he's promoting anything harmful or hurtful."

"That's disgusting," David LaFontaine, Chair of Massachusetts Governor William Weld's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth told *IN Newsweekly*. "We're talking about work that will save the lives of young people across the country. To talk about a young human being as a 'lifestyle' is incredibly ignorant and unforgivable."

"There's a larger battle here than any individual vote," LaFontaine said. Every time one of our allies caves into this kind of anti-gay rhetoric, it's a setback for us,"

LaFontaine said.

"Joe is not a battler in the cultural wars," O'Connor said, adding, "Currently there's a cultural warfare going on over values, and Joe believes that sometimes common sense must be included. He won't be intimidated by either side."

"Kennedy's position is illogical and it's really insulting to gay and lesbian youth because we can't stop kids from killing themselves unless we acknowledge the positive nature of their sexual orientation," LaFontaine said. LaFontaine characterized the vote as a "strategic move" that could have been the result of "fearing some sort of challenge from Republicans in the upcoming election."

Kennedy's spokesperson told *IN* that the Congressman's position on these two education amendments would not harm his overall support from progressive constituents. "Members of Congress take stances all of the time, and constituents will look at all of his positions," O'Connor said.

"I'm not particularly surprised by either the votes or the statements made," said Kennedy constituent Mark Goshko, president of the Massachusetts Log Cabin Club.

"His essential point, not to teach homosexuality as a positive lifestyle ... does not mean he's promoting anything harmful or hurtful."
— Kennedy spokesperson Brian O'Connor

"Joe Kennedy is one of those people ... the kind of person who has had an overstated record of support for a long time and who has been pumped up by activists obsessed with the Kennedy name," Goshko continued.

A supporter of Weld, Goshko dismissed any notion that Kennedy was positioning himself in Congress as a moderate on "social issues" as a precursor for a gubernatorial bid later this fall. (Kennedy announced last year that he would not challenge Weld.)

Goshko said that criticism of Kennedy was deserved, but that he should not be the sole target regarding the Hancock Amendment: he also criticized Representative Barney Frank for not being "willing to step up to the plate and call the situation what it is. ... I think Barney Frank is a Democrat first, period," Goshko said.

HRCF: Who cares?

Kennedy's support of the Hancock Amendment drew sharp criticism from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which characterized

the amendment as "homophobic," but drew nary a complaint from another national gay rights group, The Human Rights Campaign Fund, a spokesperson for which said Kennedy is "one of our strongest supporters on Capitol Hill."

"Congressman Kennedy voted correctly on the key vote," said Gregory King, Communications Director for HRCF. "I think it's outrageous that some people are trying to discredit that vote. We're strong supporters of Congressman Kennedy, and he's a strong supporter of our community," King said.

King pointed to Kennedy's voting record which includes voting "correctly" on gays and lesbians in the military, voting to uphold the District of Columbia's domestic partners ordinance, and voting for AIDS counseling programs. Kennedy voted "incorrectly" on the HIV Immigration Ban, which effectively keeps all PWA immigrants out of the United States.

King said it was a "terrible mistake" to focus solely on the vote for Hancock and reiterated that Kennedy has consistently scored "among the highest in the House of Representatives in [HRCF's] voting surveys."

Kennedy not only received HRCF's stamp of approval, he has also received HRCF funds. According to the Federal Election Commission records, HRCF gave Kennedy \$1,000 each year for the 1989-1990, 1991-1992, and 1993-1994 cycles.

NGLTF was not as generous toward the Congressman, however: Director of Public Information David Smith said his organization characterized the vote for the Hancock Amendment, "Even as amended, as homophobic, because it contains language that is anti-gay and is the wrong message to be sending from Washington."

For Kennedy to be making any statement that is not supportive of gay youth sends a clear message to Goshko that he is not paying attention to what is going on in his own backyard.

"If he's paying attention at all, he would know there's a pressing need [for support of our gay youth]," Goshko said, and suggested that Kennedy view the videotaped testimony of gay and lesbian teens made before the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth for evidence of a need or supportive statements and actions in Congress.

"Kennedy, as a Congressman from Massachusetts, should know better than to vote for an amendment that mischaracterizes support programs for gay students," said Commission chair LaFontaine.

"He has to be well aware of Massachusetts' work on gay youth issues. The last thing we can afford to do is feed into the distortions of the right wing, which is what this amendment clearly does."

HR6 is expected to pass through the Senate when Senators return from a two-week recess. Some gay rights activists warn Senator Jesse Helms may try to offer a "Hancock-esque" Amendment to it. ▼

Oregon Update:

Voters Approve Anti-Gay Measures,
But Judge Disapproves

by Mike Salinas

A little over two weeks after voters in three more Oregon towns adopted local anti-gay ordinances, bringing the total to 20, a judge there ruled to disqualify a statewide anti-gay ballot measure from the November ballot.

In a decision issued by mail Friday, April 8, Marion County Circuit Judge Rodney Miller ruled the measure, proposed by the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA), unconstitutional. His objection to the initiative was not on human rights grounds, but based on a state law that requires proposed constitutional amendments to be limited to a single subject.

The OCA measure was four-pronged. It sought to:

- Prohibit government spending to "promote" homosexuality;
- Limit public school and library access to material about homosexuality;
- Set terms for public employment of gays and lesbians; and
- Prohibit laws that extend minority status to gays and lesbians.

According to Miller, the measure sought to revise, rather than amend, the state constitution.

"Protect the integrity"

Charles Hinkle, an attorney who argued against the initiative for the American Civil Liberties Union, hailed Miller's ruling, saying, "The purpose of the single-subject rule is to protect the integrity of the initiative process from measures that attempt to mislead the voters."

The OCA, headed by Lon Mabon and staffed by his relatives, has been seeking to pass a statewide anti-gay measure since 1992. Its first attempt, Measure 9, went down to defeat that November, prompting the drafting of smaller "Son of 9" measures that have been put on local ballots. So far, 20 localities have passed the initiatives.

The most recent successes for the OCA occurred in late March, when the towns of Turner, Junction City, and Albany passed ordinances that

forbid anti-discrimination measures that would protect gays and lesbians in the areas of employment of housing and, like the statewide proposal, prohibit spending public money on programs "promoting homosexuality."

The three towns were also joined by the county of Marion, which includes the state capital of Salem, in passing an anti-gay resolution March 22. News reports put the vote breakdown at about 61-39 percent in Marion, and as high as 79-21 percent in the smaller communities.

None of those local ordinances, or the similar initiatives passed in 16 other Oregon localities, will be enforced: a state law was passed in 1993 to prevent local governments from enacting or enforcing such measures — but does not bar voters from voting on them. A Marion County judge upheld the law's constitutionality earlier this year, a decision promptly appealed by the OCA.

So far the OCA has successfully used the terms "special rights" and "promoting homosexuality" and the "gay agenda" to convince voters that gays are aggressive, sexually threatening, and somehow dangerous to others. By claiming the rights sought by lesbians and gays are special, it has attempted to pit other minorities against them. Even television commentators and public officials such as the governor of New Hampshire have used the term when referring to equality.

The notion of homosexual promotion has also been successfully exploited by the Mabons: examples of "current government promotion in Oregon schools," according to the OCA-sponsored "No Special Rights Committee," include such grievous offenses as "Portland Public Schools referring students with sexual identity confusion to a Portland homosexual counseling organization," "Portland School District[s] ... 'outreach program' for 'lesbian and gay youth,'" and "Portland's scary Future Focus plan [which] calls for changes to school curriculum to 'embrace and celebrate' homosexuality (which they mask under the term sexual orientation)."

"Government promotion" of homosexuality, according to the OCA's "No Special Rights Committee," includes "Portland Public Schools referring students with sexual identity confusion to a Portland homosexual counseling organization."



OCA head Lon Mabon suffered a setback.

Friday

(Continued from page 9)

against a right-wing GOP congressman from Wisconsin while discussing "Crime in the Cities" and Clinton's national crime bill. The mayor and Police Chief Tony Ribera met President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno later at a White House conference.

Politicos galore (Republican and Democrat alike) were falling over each other last week to take credit for the early reopening of the Santa Monica Freeway in L.A.: Veep Al Gore, L.A. Mayor Dick Riordan, Pete Wilson, and Transportation Secretary Federico Pena were all fighting for television time. Meanwhile in Northern California (where there are admittedly several million less voters), we are still repairing those freeways that were hit in '89.

One of the best anti-AIDS groups anywhere, Mobilization Against AIDS, will hold its 11th International Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization on Sunday, May 22, along with a fundraiser. Call 863-4676 for place, time, etc.

Friends of Supervisor Susan Leal are holding a fundraiser/reception for their candidate next Thursday, April 28, at 750 Post Street, 6-8 p.m., \$35 (495-6333 for information).

Right-wing California Republicans keep lining up behind Ron Unz (anti-tax, anti-abortion, anti-gay rights) for governor. This guy makes Pete Wilson look appealing. ▼

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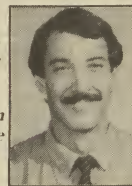
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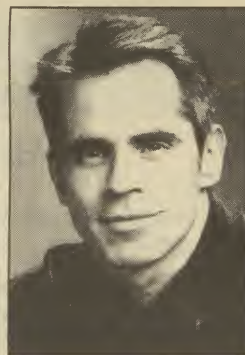
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Lon Mabon, OCA Director	1-503-634-2736
Portland Convention and Tourist Bureau	1-800-962-3700
Governor Barbara Roberts	1-503-378-3111

Gene Therapy: A New Approach for AIDS Treatment

by Dan Medynski

Three years after the first gene therapy treatment of people suffering from genetic disease proved partially successful, the medical community is now setting its sights on ways to use gene therapy for the treatment of AIDS.

Gene therapy — a buzzword in the 1980s for miraculous medicine or unnatural meddling in holy matters, depending upon one's perspective — involves introduction of foreign genetic material into a patient's cells, either to replace a defective gene or to enable those cells to carry-out new functions like fighting viral infections. Another type of treatment, cell therapy, falls one step short of gene therapy: this procedure involves infusion of billions of cells of a particular type into a patient to replenish the immune system, but doesn't involve adding foreign genetic material into those cells — the hallmark of gene therapy.

HIV infection is particularly amenable to gene therapy and cell therapy because CD4+ T-helper cells and CD8+ T-killer cells can be conveniently isolated from a patient's blood, manipulated in a laboratory setting, and then reinserted into that individual. Most HIV gene therapies fall into two categories — those that bolster immune cells that attack and kill HIV infected cells, and those that improve the virus-fighting capabilities of CD4+ T helper cells.

Treating twins with AIDS

The first approved study of anti-HIV gene therapy involves identical twins with differing HIV statuses. It is estimated that there may be as many as several thousand pairs in the U.S. in which at least one of the identical twins is HIV-positive. The particular goal of this study, which is being conducted by Richard Walker at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is to enhance the immune system of the HIV stricken twin by infusion of CD4+ and CD8+ cells from the healthy twin. The three year study will involve 12 to 16 pairs of twins discordant for AIDS.

Like the physical features of identical twins, the immune cells of these individuals are indistinguishable; there are no histocompatibility differences, so the infused cells will not be rejected as foreign. Histocompatibility refers to the ability of an individual's immune system to recognize self from not self.

In the preliminary phase of this study, CD4+ and CD8+ cells will be taken from the HIV-negative twin, separated, genetically tagged with the bacterial neomycin resistance gene, and then infused into the HIV-positive twin. Three infusions of CD4+ and CD8+ cells will occur. The neomycin resistance tag allows the researchers to determine which organs or tissues the infused cells populate, and how long they survive.

An important component

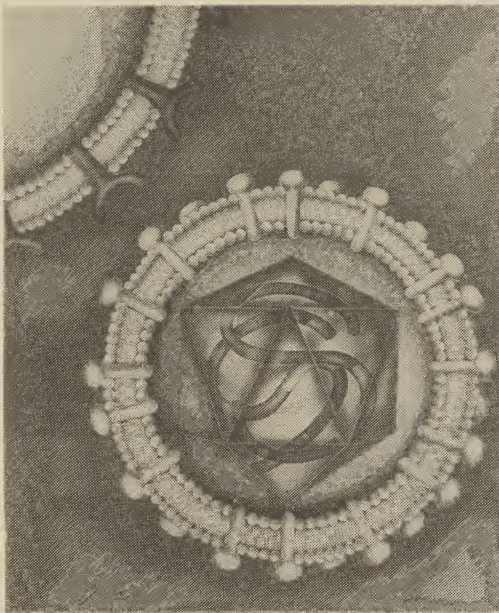


Illustration of the retrovirus HIV-1 (center) and a target T-helper lymphocyte. HIV-1 has at its center strands of RNA surrounded by a protein membrane.

of the study involves constant monitoring of p24, an HIV protein that serves as an accurate marker of HIV replication. If the therapy is successful, bolstering the twin's immune system, p24 antigen levels will drop. If the therapy somehow backfires and accelerates the onset of AIDS, p24 antigen levels would quickly rise.

Other immune reconstitution gene therapies

Another study, conducted by Philip Greenberg at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, calls for each of 15 patients to be infused with ten billion or more CD8+ T-killer cells. These cells search for and kill HIV-

infected CD4+ cells. Treatment with less than ten billion cells is not expected to have a significant therapeutic effect.

Because the infusion of CD8+ cells may cause inflammation of organs they populate — particularly the lungs — a genetic tag has been introduced into these cells so that they can be killed in the event of life-threatening inflammation. The genetic tag is a key enzyme found in the herpes virus that produces a lethal substance toxic to cells if the antiherpes drug gancyclovir is administered. Another component of the genetic tag, the bacterial gene hygromycin phosphotransferase, allows the researchers to identify the organs and tissues to which the infused cells migrate.

A cell therapy trial being conducted in the Bay Area by ViRx, in collaboration with Applied Immune Sciences (AIS) of Santa Clara, is following a similar treatment strategy. CD8+ T-cells from HIV-positive individuals are isolated from a patient's blood using an AIS-patented device that selectively captures CD8+ cells. The CD8+ cells are grown in cell culture in the presence of the immune cell growth factor IL2 and a substance that triggers cell replication, PHA, for three weeks. Subsequently the CD8+ cells, which in some cases have increased in number 15-fold during the cell culture procedure, are reinfused into the patient. In laboratory

(Continued on next page)

Screening Study to Identify Qualified HIV+ Participants for a Gene Therapy Trial

Viagene, Inc. is conducting a screening study to evaluate and identify 40 qualified HIV-infected individuals for a separate Gene Therapy treatment study.

The gene therapy trial is a "cutting edge" therapy that uses an immunotherapeutic vector [HIV-IT(V)] as a vehicle for carrying new genetic information into the cells in the body. Once in the body, these genes can trigger a series of steps to boost the immune system to better control HIV infection.

Viagene's viral vector, [HIV-IT(V)], is a disabled piece of a mouse virus designed to carry a specific HIV gene into healthy cells of study participants. This mouse virus particle will not leave the cell or infect other cells. The new HIV vector is designed to direct the host cells to produce HIV protein complexes that the cell would normally not produce. These new protein complexes resemble a portion of HIV on the surface of the host cell and serve as a signal to trigger an immune response through CD8 cytotoxic T-cells (CTL) activation. These CD8 killer cells can recognize and then kill not only the host cells expressing the new proteins but also other cells already infected with HIV. Thus, the object of the therapy is to reduce the total level of HIV-infected cells in the body.

This screening study will evaluate and identify qualified candidates for the upcoming treatment study. To qualify for the screening study, volunteers must have CD4 counts of 350 or greater and CD4 percent of 18% or greater. On subsequent testing, Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) type -- a genetic marker on white blood cells indicating inherited immune characteristics -- and Cytotoxic T-cell (CTL) activity will further determine eligibility for the proposed treatment study. The screening process will take place in four or more successive visits including blood draws over 10 weeks.

If you are interested in this exciting new trial and would like further information, please feel free to contact ViRx at (415) 474-2233. All inquiries are confidential.

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HIV News

(Continued from previous page)

tests, the cultured CD8+ cells were shown to have a high level of killing activity against various components of HIV, and the level of killing activity was increased relative to cells tested prior to the cell culture treatment with IL2 and PHA (T.L. Whiteside and others, *Blood* 81: 2085-2092 [1993]).

In a small phase 1 clinical safety trial involving 5 individuals, this CD8+ cell therapy was found to be safe, feasible, and well tolerated. All inflammatory events were reversible (M. Ho and others, *Blood* 81: 2093-2101 [1993]). Phase 2 clinical trials are expected to measure the qualitative and quantitative therapeutic effects of infusion of ten billion or more CD8+ cells.

This study differs from the Greenberg gene therapy study discussed earlier, in that the CD8+ cells are not genetically tagged to allow quick elimination in the event of life-threatening inflammation.

Therapies that reduce viral burden

In contrast to the immune reconstitution studies already discussed, researchers at the University of California San Diego, led by Flossie Wong-Stahl, are focusing on gene therapies that reduce viral burden. These investigators are planning to isolate CD4+ cells from 5 HIV-infected individuals, insert genetic material known as ribozymes genes into these cells, expand the number of cells using cell culture techniques, and then reinfuse the cells into the study participants.

Ribozymes are a type of RNA molecule that act like molecular scissors and can be

used to cut other RNA molecules into smaller, use-less components. The San Diego researchers hope that the ribozymes will block entry into and replication of HIV RNA molecules by cleaving them in half, thus reducing viral burden.

Other strategies that reduce viral burden, including using molecular decoys and mutant proteins that block the ability of HIV regulatory proteins to function properly, are still on the drawing board and have not yet cleared bureaucratic hurdles in Washington.

Vaccine gene therapy

An exciting gene therapy protocol to develop an AIDS vaccine effective in individuals who are already HIV positive is now being tested by Richard Haubrich and J. Allen McCutchan at UC San Diego, in conjunction with a Southern California biotech firm, Viagene. The trial will involve 20 asymptomatic HIV positive San Diego residents.

The participants will be injected in the arm and leg muscles with a vector that includes the HIV coat protein, gp120, but no other HIV components. The vector will enter muscle cells near the site of injection; these cells will begin producing copious amounts of HIV coat protein, which will appear on the cells' surface.

Coat protein detected on the cell surface will trigger a cell-mediated immune response, rather than an antibody response. As part of the cell-mediated response, CD8+ killer T-cells specific for HIV are expected to replicate vigorously, and then carry out their "search and de-

stroy" mission by eliminating HIV infected CD4+ cells.

According to a press release issued by UC San Diego, "preliminary studies of the vaccine performed in animal models and in tissue cultures produced promising results. Viagene's vaccine stimulated the animals' immune systems to make killer T-cells that attacked HIV-infected cells."

This vaccine differs from most traditional AIDS vaccines in that the immune response is cell-mediated rather than humoral (antibody based). HIV vaccines that generate an antibody response have become riddled with difficulties because of their inability to neutralize all of the myriad number of HIV variants that are generated because of the high HIV mutation rate.

Scientific Milestone

The first success using gene therapy, in September 1990, involved a four-year-old girl suffering from adenosine deaminase (ADA) deficiency; she received an infusion of cells containing a functional ADA gene. ADA causes a disease known as severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID).

The experiment proved that gene therapy works. It demonstrated that white blood cells from the patient could be isolated in sufficient quantity, grown in the laboratory, used as acceptors of particular genes, and then reinfused into the donor. In this watershed experiment, the quantity of ADA in T-cells was elevated to 25 percent of normal, and remained stable for more than six months between treatments. ▼

FDA To Allow Hyperthermia

by Lisa Finnegan,
States News Service

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration announced Thursday, April 13 that it will allow the use of hyperthermia treatment, which involves removing the blood from people with AIDS, heating it to kill HIV, and returning it to the body. The decision stems partly from the improvement patients have shown at European treatment centers.

The reversal is credited to a New Jersey man with AIDS and Senator Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., who, along with members of the Institute for Advanced Studies of Medicine, announced the FDA's decision to allow hyperthermia to be tested on people with AIDS.

"This is a major breakthrough," said PWA Chuck DeMarco, who formed a non-profit company to crusade for the treatment. "In some cases

it stops AIDS in its tracks."

Hyperthermia treatment is similar to dialysis. Infected blood — all of it — is taken from the body, heated to 108-110 degrees, then returned to the body. The heat destroys HIV, and patients often see symptoms disappear.

DeMarco and nearly 100 other patients underwent hyperthermia treatment in Rome. Successes ranged from the elimination of some symptoms to full remission.

"I was the second person from the United States to undergo the procedure," said DeMarco, 34. His companion was the first to have the treatment, he said.

"He died a year after the procedure, but his symptoms cleared up and he was walking and talking up to the hour before he died," said DeMarco. "It gave him a much better life than if his body had been ravaged by AIDS."

Lautenberg learned about DeMarco's recovery at a town

hall meeting last year.

"The senator spoke to Mr. DeMarco at a town hall meeting and knew if what he said was true, someone had to look into it," said Leigh Leventhal, a spokeswoman for Lautenberg.

"He held meetings with the National Institute of Health, the FDA, and others interested in AIDS research and they decided, after looking at the information, to allow testing."

Hyperthermia treatment originally was banned in the United States because it was considered to be an ineffective and possibly dangerous way to combat HIV.

"I think what really happened is people got scared because it sounds strange," DeMarco said. "But I've been present when three people went through the procedure and it is very safe and effective."

Testing is expected to begin later this year. ▼

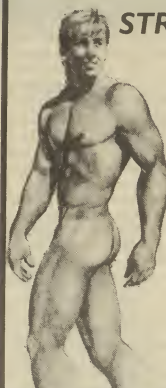
nandez said, and San Francisco will lose \$3.2 million in non-general funds with resulting drastic service reductions.

Although there are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender clients throughout the city's substance abuse treatment programs, the substance abuse treatment program specifically for gay male outpatients at 18th Street Services is set to lose an estimated \$60,000 in funds. The cuts will eliminate 30 treatment

slots for gay and bisexual male substance abusers.

Iris Women's Center will also receive a cut of \$18,692, or eight treatment slots.

The Department was able to forestall major service reductions because of a reorganization and consolidation of Health Department services, and because it was not required to turn unexpended revenue surplus over to the general fund, Hernandez said. ▼



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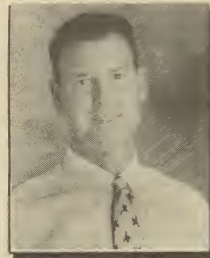
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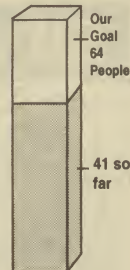
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This study is being run in San Francisco by Stanford University School of Medicine



Budget

(Continued from page 1)

gram's food bank was part of the SF AIDS Foundation.

Other service cuts impacting the gay and lesbian community are cuts in funds the Department formerly used to provide substance abuse services, procured through the county's Federal Asset Forfeit Seizure funds.

Alternate funds for the services has not been found, Her-

Obituaries

Paul Alsbach

June 3, 1956-April 14, 1994

Paul passed away peacefully from AIDS complications at UCSF Moffitt Hospital. His family and friends were a constant source of love and support during his final days.

Paul graduated with a B.S. in physiology from Michigan State University. He had a successful career as an analytical chemist and was most recently employed by Genentech.

Paul will be remembered for his kindness, wild sense of humor, and love for travel. Paul poured an enormous amount of energy into breeding and showing Australian shepherds and was the proud recipient of many awards at shows throughout California. Paul volunteered at Under One Roof, was a recent addition to the Gay Men's Chorus, and an avid bodybuilder at World Gym.

Paul is survived by his mother and father, Dorothy and Clarence Alsbach; brother Dwight and wife Tracy; brother Larry; brother Neal and wife Darcey; niece and nephews; close friends, Dorinne Tsuchiya, Ken Paris, Barbara Sheng, and Rebecca Sunshine; and loving pets, Phoebe and Alex. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Donations can be made in Paul's name to the AIDS Legal Referral Panel of the SF Bay Area, 114 Sansome St., Suite 1129, SF, CA 94104. ▽

Giles Christian

Oct. 26, 1949-March 31, 1994

Giles (Guy) Christian passed away shortly before sunset on March 31, a beautiful spring afternoon, surrounded by his family, friends and lover, Jon.

Giles was proud of his work as a member of Painter's Local Union No. 4 for over 20 years and would often point out locations around the city that he had painted himself. He extended his love of art and beauty to all aspects of his life, creating a rich and rewarding environment for those who loved him. Giles

would often make gifts of his own paintings and handmade cards to friends.

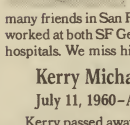
His second love was the movies: the glamour, the glitz and especially the gossip. Never before had I cut work to see an opening of a new movie, but I did with Giles — and I loved it! I sure hope there's a big screen theater with lots of popcorn (extra butter and salt) on the next side or at least a VCR!

Giles was a gentle man with a big heart that a lot of bad things seemed to happen to in spite of his enduring sense that all was right with the universe. I miss you very much, baby, and wish I had more time to hold you in my arms. I'm surrounded by your presence in all the beauty and love you brought to my life. I hope I can learn to make the bed so that you're satisfied. You have all the answers now, and I still have the questions. It's good to know that I have an angel looking out for me at last. Good-bye, my friend. ▽

Fernando Estrada, RN

1953-1994

Fernando passed away in Arizona from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma this last February. His partner and companion of 12 years was at his side. Fernando leaves a mother, several brothers and sisters, cousins, co-workers, and many friends in San Francisco. He had worked at both SF General and SF VA hospitals. We miss him. ▽



Kerry Michael Hansen

July 11, 1960-April 11, 1994

Kerry passed away peacefully in his sleep in his SF home. His last days were made easier by loving care from his life companion, Joseph Deninno and great friend, Bill Wiertel. They were at his side, along with his noble Yorkie, Trauser.

Kerry was born in Corvallis, Ore., and moved to Portland in 1980, then down to SF in 1986.

He was the loving son of Norma and Tom Shannon, Grace and Dwayne Hansen, and is survived by them and brother Daniel.

He worked for Aetna Life Insurance for two years.

Kerry was witty, honest and sincere. He loved clothes and *jeopardy*. During his last year, he worked for Family Link, where he wanted any donations to go.

Kerry was a wonderful friend, and our world is a little dimmer now. Call 474-5398 for any further information. ▽

George T. Gregory

March 7, 1994

George T. Gregory died March 7 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Good-bye, patient teacher.
Good-bye, good confidant.
Good-bye, wonderful adviser.
Good-bye, special friend.
Knowing we will be with you again makes it easier. Good-bye.

A memorial service is scheduled for April 24, 1994, at 2:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church Chapel, 1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco, Calif. ▽

Christos Joannides

July 9, 1957-April 10, 1994

Loved by a great variety of friends, Christos touched their lives with his gentle spirit, strength, sense of humor and intense loyalty. Early Sunday morning, April 10, his fight ended in the beautiful home in the Oakland Hills he shared with his lover. He is survived by his lover of five years, David Moebis, his two playful golden retrievers, Max and Frodo, his many friends and his family.

Born and raised in the Mediterranean, Christos fulfilled his two-year military obligation and then relocated to England to pursue and receive a degree in finance. But his love of music drew him to the United States, and in 1981, he enrolled in the San Francisco Institute of Recording Arts. Soon surrounded by loving friends, he bought a house and made the Bay Area his permanent home.

A celebration of his life will be held on Sunday, May 15, at Christos and David's home. Donations in Christos' name may be made to "The Center," (510) 655-3435.

We will all miss you, gentle warrior, who who "ragged against the dying of the light." Look after us. ▽

Kevin Kane

Aug. 22, 1951-April 15, 1994

Kevin died from AIDS a little before dawn on April 15. He leaves behind his parents, John and Claire, and his sisters, Colleen, Claudia and Kathy. He also leaves behind many "sisters" at work and in the bars he loved. Always a serious party girl, he was an institution at the old Special. You'd remember him, always friendly, cocktail in hand.

Kevin fought desperately to keep control of his life as long as he could. He let very few of us inside once he became gravely ill. His last days with us at Mt. Zion Hospital in his single room will always stay in memory, as will his lust for fun and his outrageous sense of humor.

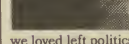
Kevin leaves behind his much loved cat, Stormy. She is desperate and needs a new home; we thought one was secured, and it has fallen through. If you know someone who has a home for a sweet black-and-white female, spayed, housebroken, loving cat, call Jeff at 821-6611.

The date for Kevin's memorial service will be announced. Donations in his memory should go to Project Open Hand. Help find Stormy a new home! ▽

Peter Medoff

Feb. 3, 1957-April 18, 1994

My friend Peter Medoff died following a long bout of declining health from AIDS. An organizer to the end, he was surrounded by a support group he put together to help him through the last six months. I met Peter in Hartford in 1985; we loved left politics and one another.



Lovers for a year, we stayed close friends for almost 10. We discovered our love for leather, motorcycles and pig sex together. We fought together for gay rights bills in Massachusetts and Connecticut. We also discovered together that we were HIV positive.

With his death we've lost another great talent. With a degree in urban planning, Peter was a tenant organizer in New York and Hartford. More recently in Boston he worked for the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative that gained the right of eminent domain for the Dudley neighborhood. After Dudley, he developed housing for people with AIDS.

When he died, he was ready to go. His book, *Streets of Hope*, was published, and he was in a state of peace. He is survived by his son, Joey; a multitude of friends; his brothers; and his parents. His ashes will be scattered off the Maine coast. I'll miss him so much. ▽

Sandy McDougal (a.k.a. Alexander, Dixie)

April 11, 1994

Our loving friend Sandy left us to dance with the angels at 4:30 a.m. on April 11, 1994, in Punta Gorda, Florida.

A longtime San Francisco-Bay Area resident, Dixie was known for his inspired design ideas realized for Bon Appetit

Catering and the now legendary Super Bowl parties at Stanford. His easygoing Southern charm and generosity endeared him to many who will fondly recall his demon-driven, country-western dancing at the Rawhide and the rodeos. Alexander returned to the East Coast, and eventually his native Florida, which served as his creative headquarters. There he continued his design endeavors, and traveled to Aruba to create and execute a magnificent celebration for the Sultan of Brunei's entourage.

Sandy's loving family, friends and exceptional staff at Mercy Hospital in Miami helped him fight a painful battle with lymphoma, which eventually exhausted his physical being. Sandy's spirit, however, continues to burn brightly in each of us.

"Love you, always." ▽

Philip Mark Saint Romain

April 2, 1959-April 11, 1994

We are so very thankful for the life of Philip Mark Saint-Romain, who left this vale of tears in the early hours of Monday, April 11. Happily, he was pain-free almost to the very end of his illness.

Philip was a native of New Orleans and spent many joyous hours reveling in its Mardi Gras luxuriance. Philip attended George Washington University in St. Louis, where he met friends who eminently supported him in his final months. Philip was a compassionate being, who knew what he felt and heeded those feelings. A thorough worker, Philip always did his very best. Philip was trustworthy; his word was his deed. A staunch advocate for justice, he would not yield in the face of any kind of hate. Philip was a true renaissance man. His interests spanned the arts and sciences. His ravenous hunger for knowledge and adventure could only be stilled by the AIDS that has taken throngs of his ilk.

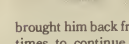
The gleam he brought to the lives of his spouse, Greg; his mother, Cecile; and his family and friends is forever dimmed. May he find new knowledge and adventure on the other side. ▽

Arthur Andrew (Art) Stanley

July 21, 1948-March 19, 1994

Art Stanley passed away on the morning of March 19 to join once again the great love of his life, Bert Smith, who died nine years ago.

Art fought for his life in a way that amazed and inspired everyone around him. His will to live brought him back from the brink many times to continue his battle against



AIDS. In the end, though, his passing was peaceful and quiet, surrounded by his cats, his Callas, and his memories of Bert.

Art earned two doctoral degrees, and while teaching literature at the University of Georgia, he met Bert, who had just returned from Bobby Kennedy's tragic campaign and was teaching political science. Their devotion to one another became an inspiration to all their friends, and Art's love for Bert continued undiminished over the nine years since Bert's death.

Art's mother, a Greek-born dancer, was a Rockette; his father, a prize-fighting boxer. His mother took him to her homeland during the summers of his youth, and his love of Greece led him to learn the language and study the classics in the original Greek, and perhaps helped lead to his fascination with the Greek diva, Maria Callas.

Before he accepted disability he was working for Ketchum Communications, a company whose compassion is exemplary.

No memorial will be held. Instead, Art asked that his friends send gifts to the SF AIDS Foundation, Project Open Hand and PAWS in his memory. ▽

John Alan Taber

Aug. 3, 1953-April 12, 1994

John died peacefully after a difficult

four-month struggle with pneumonia and other AIDS complications. At his side were twin brother, Glen; lover, John Veldkamp; parents, Richard and Julia; and friend, Evan Yardley.

Born and raised in Oakland, John moved to SF in 1986. He graduated from Golden Gate University in 1989 with a B.A. in accounting, an accomplishment of which he was extremely proud.

John loved driving — anywhere, anytime. He greatly enjoyed his family's cabin in the Sierra foothills and often took his friends along. The cabin was filled with his beloved grandmother's presence, who died four years ago and whom John greatly missed. John also loved spending time with his best friend, Steve Jaratt, who predeceased him by two months.

Deepest thanks to the people who loved and cared for John, and for whom he cared and loved the most: Beth and Lisa, Evan, Lionel, Karen, Geri and Bob, Juanita, Sara, Terry, his nieces Terri and Jill, his cousin Charlotte and her daughter Lucy, his nurse Richard, his teddy bear Sharky and, most especially, his brother Glen and mother Julia. Special thanks to the fourth floor staff at Davies Medical Center for their care, compassion and support.

Memorial donations may be made to the AIDS Emergency Fund, 1540 Market Street, Suite 320, San Francisco, CA 94102.

I miss you, kiddo — John. ▽

Timothy Tafoya

February 17, 1994

Timothy Samuel Tafoya died Thursday, February 17, at his home in Merced, Calif. Timothy was born in French Camp and lived in Merced most of his life. He moved to San Francisco in 1988 to attend San Francisco State University.

Soon after moving to San Francisco, Tim became involved in his musical life. He was a section leader at Saint Ignatius Church, and appeared with such groups as the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, the Golden Gate Men's Chorus and the Talent Bank. Tim was also the co-founder of The Altarboys, a singing ensemble which was active in 1992.

Tim was surrounded at the end by the love of his brothers, John and Tony Tafoya, and his mother, Lois Shutz. He is also survived by his brothers, Ron and Mark Taber, and two sisters, Linda Wright and Paula Richie. He was preceded in death by a sister, Theresa Sims, in November.

There was a memorial service on April 16 at Saint Ignatius Church. Memorial contributions may be made to the Merced College Drama Department, 3600 M Street, Merced, CA, 95340. ▽

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Write name of person on back of photo. If you include a stamped envelope to have the photo returned, please write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap.
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Charges and Countercharges Fly In Firing of Oroville Gay Counselor

by John Antalek

A Butte County social worker in Oroville, California has filed a lawsuit against the county's Child Protective Service (CPS) for allegedly firing him for being gay. He also alleges the agency conspired to cover their true motives for firing him by instigating a molestation investigation, having him arrested, and making other false accusations to prevent him from obtaining future positions in his field.

The CPS states that it fired Christopher Wagenseller, 35, in December of 1991 for taking unauthorized camping trips with a minor that he was counseling. Wagenseller believes his termination was based solely on his sexual orientation.

Wagenseller states that he was never given any written or verbal guidelines that prohibited camping trips, and in fact could not have known that such a rule existed, because his supervisor Dwayne Ellam had known about the trips and had approved overtime pay for one of them.

After being fired, Wagenseller states that a former co-worker, Lani Dupret-Sabatino, told him that there was a different reason that he was fired.

"She said that I was fired because I was gay. That was the real issue," Wagenseller said. After the lawsuit was filed and molestation charges were made, Sabatino changed her story.

"She testified against me," Wagenseller said, "Everybody started changing their stories."

Child molestation charges were brought against Wagenseller by Butte County at the request of the CPS. Wagenseller's house was searched. He was held at gunpoint, grabbed by his hair, pushed against a wall and handcuffed even though he had not resisted and was fully cooperative. He remained under arrest for six months with no evidence supporting the charges against him.

Wagenseller acknowledges that he was the boy's counselor and that he took the boy on two camping trips, but ve-

hemently denies the allegations of sexual abuse. He believes the boy was coerced into making up a molestation story by investigators who asked him leading questions, even after the boy had repeatedly stated that no molest had occurred. Wagenseller also believes the charges and subsequent arrest were to help the CPS establish immunity against the lawsuit that he filed.

The District Attorney, Lou Lodigiani, also named in the suit, was informed that the boy was an accomplished liar who was likely to make false molestation charges, especially if pressured and intimidated to do so. When the boy finally gave an abuse story, he changed it numerous times, Wagenseller alleges, which the county tried to cover up.

Documents show that the boy's story changed each time he told it. He claimed Wagenseller fondled him and kissed him, but later stated that he fondled and kissed Wagenseller. One version states that he was tied up and stripped, and another states that he wasn't tied or naked. The locations also changed and the times varied drastically.

The minor was known to have used hallucinogenic drugs and created fantastic stories to cover his own wrong-doings, which included forcing himself on a younger boy for sexual gratification.

The CPS was aware that the minor had been recommended for a comprehensive psychological evaluation to determine if his stories were reality-based or the product of LSD use. The CPS continued its criminal investigation of Wagenseller anyway.

The District Attorney's office finally told the court that it was dismissing the criminal charges against Wagenseller for lack of evidence.

Among other charges the CPS faces, it stands accused of falsifying witness interviews, failing to provide favorable information for Wagenseller's case, and unprofessional investigative practices; individuals from the CPS, such as Dupret-Sabatino and Ellam, are also named for perjuring themselves.

sically torpedoed by issues of sexual politics. We can't make political progress without addressing issues of sex and sexuality. It is a major conceptual failing of national organizations. And this is true even of the legal organizations who have been very chary to take on anything that dealt with acts, like defending the bath houses.

One of the things I enjoyed about the new book is your writing about the intimacy of sex. It was in many ways very erotic, I think, in a way that appeals to both straight and gay readers. The part I'm talking about dealt with the intimacy of relationships.

Oh yes. Sometimes when I write about something it kills it for me. And fortunately this passage didn't. I think I am one of the few authors who tries to say that you don't have to become sex-negative in the face of the AIDS crisis, that we should try to keep that sort

Wagenseller and his attorney are in the process of building their case, finding as much evidence and testimony as they can to support their claims.

"I'm worried for the kid, though," Wagenseller said. "He is falling through the cracks and nobody is helping him. He used to dump a lot of anger on me and he is still sorting through his own issues. [The molestation accusations] were not made in the boy's best interest."

Wagenseller remains unemployed, unable to find work as a counselor because of the charges that were made against him — charges that can ruin virtually any career but which are particularly damaging in his field.

"I'm broke. I had to sell my house," he said. "I'm afraid to live in Butte County. They can do whatever they want. My credibility is shot. I just want people to tell the truth."

Wagenseller predicts a sad future for the boy he once counseled if he doesn't receive the kind of therapy he needs, and used to get from Wagenseller.

"He's really scared, he sets bad things up to happen and they do because he makes them happen," he said. "I'd like to see something [positive] happen for the boy."

Steven Crooks, Wagenseller's attorney, states that the molestation charges were maliciously pulled out of thin air. "The kid never came forward and complained," he said, "but they still arrested Chris and prosecuted him. We're hoping for a trial date in early 1995."

Crooks says that this has ruined Wagenseller's credibility as a professional counselor and he should be compensated for that. He feels his client has a strong case but worries about the toll that this is taking on him.

"Christopher would like to settle and get on with his life, but this will always be a big black mark against him," Crooks stated. He told the B.A.R. that the fair thing would be for the allegations to be stricken from Wagenseller's record, "but that's not likely to happen." ▼

of flame and hearth glowing for the community.

And it was in the context of marriage, was it not?

That sexual intimacy is one of the foundations of marital love is the kernel of truth that comes out of religious traditions.

It seems that the position of the ACLU is that marriage has two components only — a bundle of benefits and a national health care plan. The rest is just sort of symbolic stuff. I think that gay marriage has a very strong sort of motivation and rhetorical aptness, even as a distant goal, in the sense of its ever being likely to come about. It is a positive issue that can be worked on at the local level. ▼

Editor's note: Richard Mohr's A More Perfect Union: Why Straight America Must Stand Up for Gay Rights (Beacon Hill Press) is available now in most bookstores for \$14.95.

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Mohr

(Continued from page 13)

don't complain.

And towards the end when he goes to this heterosexual wedding and it turns out to be basically a vehicle for he and his lover's humiliation, you'd think he would wake up and smell the coffee, and realize that there are issues of dignity at hand. We can't have our lives governed by other people's perceptions.

One thing I am proud of in my own work is that I am the only sort of thinker who is sex-positive. I'm constantly defending sexual practices. That seems to me one very disappointing thing about our national organizations, sex is never mentioned at all.

We're here, we're queer, we don't talk about sex.

Right. And it is quite clear that the military thing was ba-

Some Modest Proposals

by Michael C. Botkin

A recent attempt to open a gay bathhouse in San Francisco has inspired the usual outcry, as few topics raise such a welter of moral, legal and ethical issues. The city originally granted a permit to the putative operators, who already run the Berkeley Steamworks across the Bay (when the baths were "run out of town" years ago, they didn't run very far). However, as soon as opponents raised a hue and cry, the city suspended that permit, claiming that it had been issued "in error," and Mayor Jordan declared his utter opposition to the notion. The issue has been redefined as a "public safety" one and, accordingly, referred to the Police Department. This pretty much assures that no bath will open.

The laws pertaining to this matter are particularly vague and ill-defined. Legislation was proposed that would have clearly outlawed gay bathhouses in San Francisco, but they were closed by general hysteria and public outcry before the laws were actually passed, leaving their status in limbo.

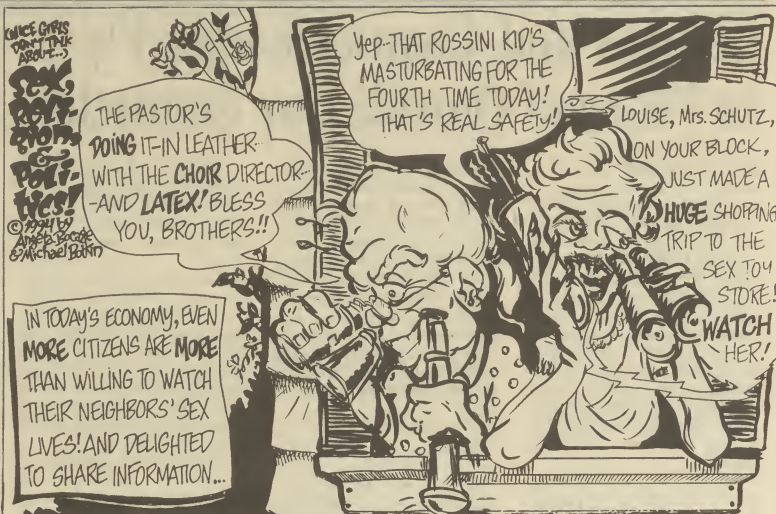
The city does have a set of rules regulating sex clubs, but

ing number of conflicts of interest. Most coalition members are sex-club operators, and when they point out violators for the Department of Public Health — something they have now done on a number of occasions — they just happen to be putting their less-strict competitors out of business. One has to wonder if such actions aren't multiply motivated.

Moralistic regulation will never be as effective as voluntary education, but it plays better in the polls.

The CHS rules boil down to eliminating any private space in a sex club — no doors that can be closed, no spaces that aren't open to inspection and monitoring. Obviously such standards run contrary to the standard practice of gay baths, where private rooms are available. These "guidelines" were generated by the CHS but are enforced by the city.

(At a recent forum on safe sex held at the Women's Building, audience members asked DPH officials why they enforce the "voluntary guide-



CONTRASTING TO LOUISE SLAMM, THE LESBIE ARTICLE IN GLAMOUR, "The most feminist publication with perfume samples!"

lines" of a community organization. They responded that they had, of course, developed their own guidelines which have the force of law and which just happen to be word for word exactly the same as those written by the CHS. To some this amounted to an admission that the CHSers are their stoolies and political cover, fingering offenders for the authorities and then providing a rationale for prosecuting — persecuting? — them).

Lack of creativity

These CHS guidelines are the ones that will be invoked to block the baths. How is the "no privacy" rule considered essential to controlling sexual behavior to be enforced?

There is no way possible, the moralists proclaim, and therefore, these institutions cannot be permitted to exist in San Francisco (although they don't seem to be spreading disease in Berkeley, San Jose, or any of the other many U.S. cities where they're still around. In the end, only New York City and San Francisco closed down their bathhouses).

Such a lack of creativity is depressing. These people have given up far too soon, and to the open-minded, a number of possible solutions suggest themselves.

One can monitor these private rooms in a number of ways, for example, by having video cameras monitoring all action. Rather than hiring workers to watch over the patrons, we can sell the right to view these live-action videos to paying voyeurs, who can notify the authorities if risky activity is observed. Practitioners of public sex have often noted that voyeurs usually outnumber those actively engaged, so there should be no shortage of willing monitors. The observation fees could well outpace the earnings from regular "hands-on" customers while simultaneously providing a degree of "oversight" that would be the envy of the CHS.

Failing the high-tech approach, we could recruit a corps of safe sex monitors who would wander the premises with flashlights, condoms and riding crops. I personally know a large number of community-minded activists who have expressed willingness — nay, enthusiasm — at the prospect of spending their weekends patrolling bathhouses and sex clubs to see that everything is in proper order. Clearly we should attempt to mobilize such community spirit rather than stifle it. The fact is that with just a little encouragement, most people would be willing and eager to investigate and regulate the sex lives of their peers and neighbors. It's simply a matter of mobilization and organization.

Circuit riding

A similar soft-ball ap-

proach could profitably be applied to "Trooms" as well. Currently the state and several counties spend large sums monitoring highway rest stops to suppress the sexual encounters that traditionally and inevitably occur there. San Mateo County has stationed a 24-hour-a-day stake-out at the most popular T-room on Highway 280 ("the most beautiful freeway in the world"). I don't know what this costs, but figure three shifts, round the clock, of a two-man team (I'm willing to bet they don't use women for this) multiplied by seven days a week and adding on extra for overhead, fringe benefits, etc., and it's one hell of a lot of money.

If just a fraction of the same funds were instead spent on a single outreach worker who could act as a "circuit-riding" safe sex educator at a large number of these rest stops, we'd get much more bang for the buck. He could put up stickers with safe sex instructions on them, hand out condoms, and offer information on risk reduction to interested parties.

The current repressive policy toward Trooms cuts off a unique opportunity to get information to a hard-to-reach population considered particularly at risk for AIDS: non-gay identified men who have sex with other men (a group that is disproportionately young and non-Anglo). Most of the habitués of the rest stops are straight-identified men, people with few contacts in the gay community and accordingly little access to useful safe sex information. We should be looking for ways to find and educate these guys instead of just driving them deeper underground.

San Mateo, and probably many other counties, are waging an expensive and entirely futile war against perversion at the rest stops. Face it, folks; this is a force of nature bigger than any county sheriff's department — they probably had Trooms along the old Silk Road to China. If they wanted to instead put a little effort into the war against AIDS, they could make some headway, but this task disinterests them, as it does the SFPD.

Moralistic regulation will never be as effective as voluntary education, but it plays better in the polls. I hope the boys at Steamworks have learned their basic lesson in democracy: don't try to open a bathhouse in an election year! ▼

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Health & Community

ACT UP Golden Gate Meetings are Tuesdays, 7pm. 584B Castro. Discuss treatment issues, possible actions. 252-9200.

ACT UP SF Meets every Thursday at 7:30pm, in the Women's Building, 3543 18th St., 3rd Fl. 621-0291.

AIDS Bereavement Group Meets Mondays, starting May 9. Sponsored by St. Mary's Medical Center, 450 Stanyan. 750-5718.

Bay Area Young Positives Support groups, retreats, fun night, referrals and peer counseling for HIV-positive people under 27. 518 Waller. 487-1616.

Breaking the Silence "The Response of Progressive People of Faith to the Religious Right's P.R. Machine," sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for L/G/B Concerns. April 23, 10am. \$5-10. First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin. 648-4042.

Candidates Forum East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club sponsors a meeting with Oakland Mayor, City Council, School Board, Supervisor and Judge candidates about queer issues. April 24, 7pm. Rockridge Women's Club, 6065 Chabot Road, Oakland. 763-3196.

Deaf AIDS Center at UCSF Services for deaf and hard of hearing people with HIV/AIDS. 3333 California, Suite 10. 346-8327 TTY, 476-4980 (Voice).

Dyke March Planning meeting for the 2nd annual march. April 24, 5:30pm. Whiptail Lizard Lounge, 4035 18th. 789-8012.

Free Workshops Open, ongoing meetings on HIV, social issues and emotions. Led by Neil Kaminsky at Operation Concern. Wednesday evs. 677-7993.

Gay/Lesbian Historical Society Volunteers needed for exhibit about pre-Stonewall San Francisco. Ellen: 626-0980.

Men's Spiritual Retreat 12-step recovery weekend in the country, with over 100 gay men participating in fun activities and meetings in a drug and alcohol-free environment in Julian, CA. May 6-8. Registration deadline April 27. (619) 582-9263.

GCHP Clubhouse Drop-in and hang-out space for gay/bi/questioning Asian and Pacific Islander men. Tuesdays, 7-9pm, 1841 Market at Guerrero. 575-3931.

Girth & Mirth Potluck dinner party. April 23, 8pm. 824-0260.

HIV Case Management Network Information, referral, benefits counseling, financial assistance and other services provided free for Sonoma County residents with HIV/AIDS. (707) 544-1586.

HIV Support Group Twelve consecutive Wed. evs at St. Mary's Medical Center. 750-5834.

International G/L Human Rights Commission Volunteers needed now to fight rights violations. (510) 547-1502.

Lesbian Over 50 Meeting 3pm, April 24. Whiptail Lizard Lounge, 4035 18th St. 267-6979.

MCC's Men Together 4-week discussion groups on different topics. April 22: gay former FBI agent Frank Buttino speaks. 7-9pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. Free. 863-4434.

Men Together Group talks to help boost safe sexual behavior, as well as other topics, for gay and bisexual men of color in Alameda County. Volunteers also being trained now. (510) 790-3305.

Mix 94 Submit videos for 8th NY L & G Experimental Film. Video Fest, and Lookout 94, a fest of queer media, PSA and shows. Deadline June 15. Write: MIX, Anthology Film Archives, 32 2nd St., NY, NY 10003.

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group Ongoing groups, also meetings for friends, lovers and family. Volunteers needed as well. 863-1581.

Not So Straight Talk Teen lesbian, gay, bi support group in Santa Cruz. Men's groups, too. (408) 457-1441.

Pacific Friends South Bay gay male social group for Asians and non-Asians. (408) 294-9625.

Pervert Scouts Loose gang of leatherdykes meets April 23, 3pm, Whiptail Lizard Lounge, 4035 18th. 267-6979.

Project Inform Town Meeting Info on new treatment developments and current research. April 27, 7:30pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 558-9051.

Queers For Cuba Local activist group travels to Cuba April 29, and needs help with donations of all sorts, including condoms, HIV medications, and drag clothes. 995-4678.

Reel Affirmations Washington DC's 4th annual film festival seeks submissions. Deadline July 1. (202) 986-1119.

Safe Sex Video Contest Entry deadline extended to June 1 for SF AIDS Foundation's competition of hot, erotic short videos. Call 864-5855, ext. 3047.

SF AIDS Foundation Hotline Training in May for volunteers on the trilingual HIV info line. 864-5855, ext. 2751.

Spectrum Lesbian, gay & bisexual support groups for parents, kids, spirituality, HIV wellness and other topics. 457-1115.

Stop AIDS Meeting Support and discussion group about safer sex, AIDS and other issues for gay & bisexual men 50 & older. 621-7177.

Trikone G&L South Asian group meets monthly in SF, San Jose and around the Bay. (408) 270-8776.

Umoja Co-gender alliance of African Americans working to fight the fundamentalist infiltration of black communities. (510) 874-4794.

Women's Action Coalition Alliance of activists meets every Tuesday, 7:30pm, at Build, 483 Guerrero. (510) 869-2584.

Women's HIV Clinic 12:30-4:30pm every second & fourth Monday. San Mateo AIDS Program. 573-2385.

Women Writers Group All levels welcome. April 24, 1pm. Whiptail Lizard Lounge, 4035 18th. 267-6979.



Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 959788

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of ROBERT CHARROT for change of name. The application of ROBERT CHARROT for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that ROBERT CHARROT has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to MOUSE CHARROT. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 18th day of May 1994 at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 3rd day of March, 1994.

April 7, 14, 21, 28, 1994. L-959788

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 184867

The following person is doing business as JAMES PRODUCTION WORKS, 4465 17th St. #A, San Francisco, CA 94114; DAVID PETER INNOCENT JAMES, 4465 17th St. #A, San Francisco, CA 94114; Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date January 1, 1994. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed DAVID JAMES.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 31, 1994.

April 7, 14, 21, 28, 1994. L-184867

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City and County of San Francisco Department of Social Services Request For Proposals

RFP-DSS-093: DSS seeks contractors to provide 2 types of services funded by a State Grant (CAPIT) as follows: (1) Respite Services and (2) In-home Support Services to Asian Families. RFP issue date 4/15/94. Due date 5/16/94, 2:00 p.m. Contract term 7/1/94 - 6/30/94. Amount: Respite: \$115,000; In-home: \$45,000. Contact: Walter Maciak, SFDSS, OCC, P.O. Box 7988, SF 94120. Tel. (415) 557-5581.

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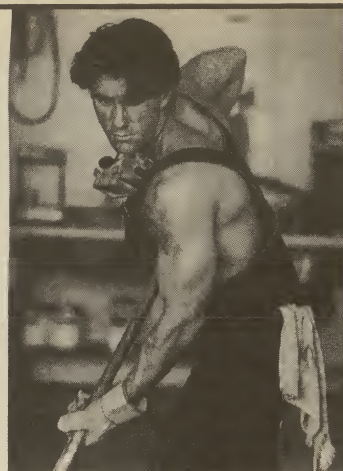
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 184960

The following person is doing business as CRAIG MOLE PHOTOGRAPHY, 610 22nd St. #307, San Francisco, CA 94107; CRAIG ROBERT MOLE, 355 Chenery St., San Francisco, CA 94131; Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date January 1994. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed CRAIG R. MOLE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 5, 1994.

April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 1994. L-184960

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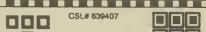
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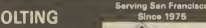
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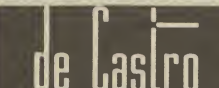
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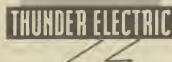
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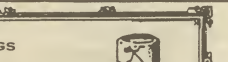
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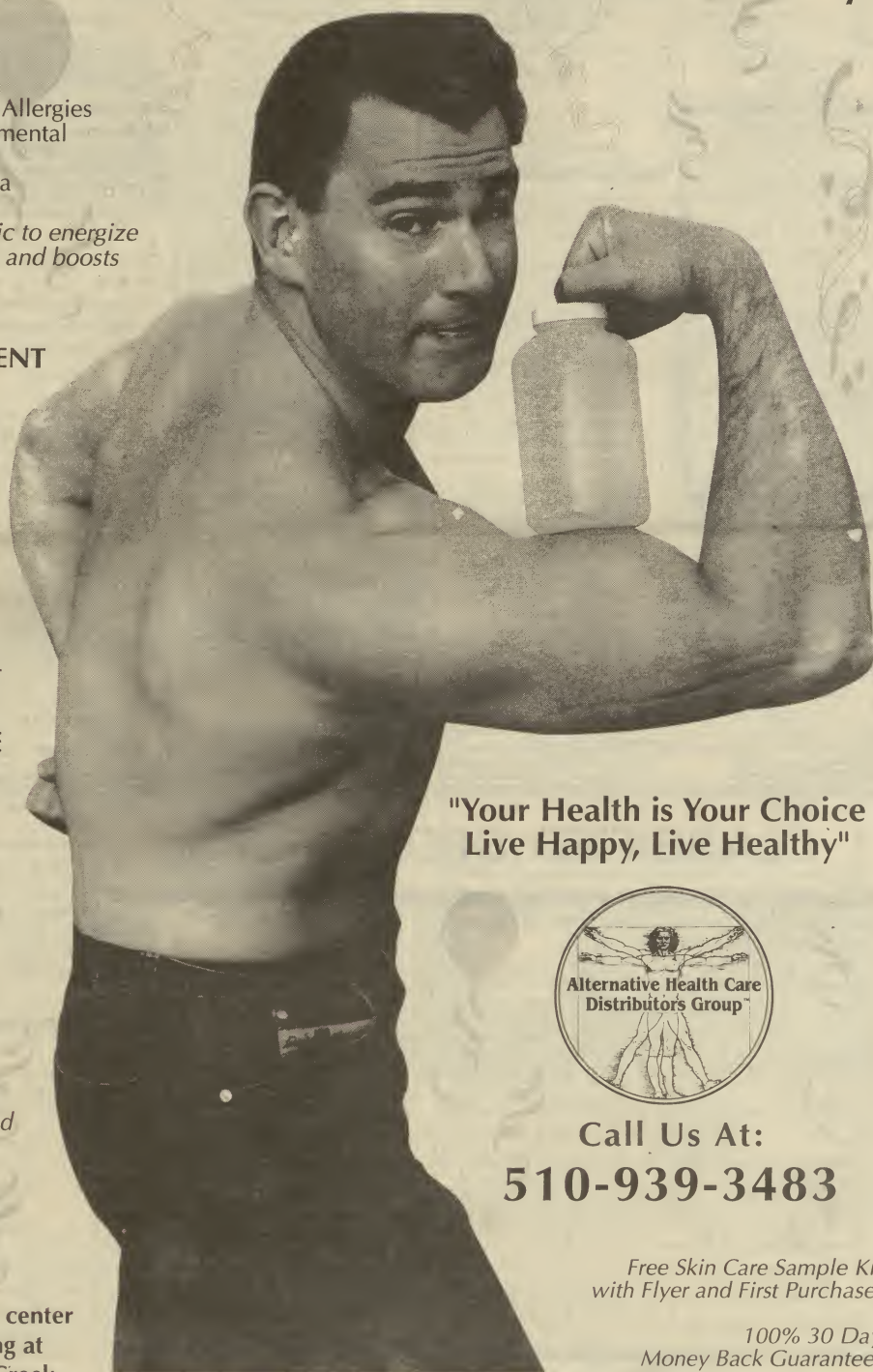
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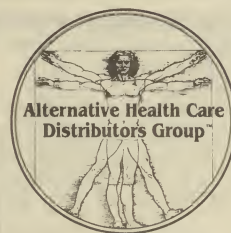
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Allie Light and Irving Saraf's
'Dialogues With Madwomen'

by Rachel Pepper

It's easy to see why *Dialogues With Madwomen* has been winning so many awards, including the Freedom of Expression prize at this year's Sundance Festival. Easy, because from the film's first few seconds, you're hooked.

"Who made us?" asks a female voice, over a shot of a mass Moonie-style wedding. "God made us," comes the reply. A moment's silence follows, while religious imagery flickers quickly across the screen. Then the same voice, setting the stage for what's to follow, beats us to the punchline. "Who is God?" it asks us, summing up in three words all that we really don't know.

It's a good question, and just one of many raised by

the wonderful new film by local collaborators Allie Light and Irving Saraf. You may go into the film wondering why

As queers, we understand well the perspective of the outsider who is feared by and fearing of "mainstream" society.

some people become "mad" and others do not. After hearing the seven women featured

Hannah, from *Dialogues with Madwomen*.

talk about their lives, you'll come out wondering why more of us don't.

Perhaps the most enlightening thing about *Madwomen* is how "normal" the participants in it seem. Although most recount terrible tales of breakdowns, drug dependency, suicidal depressions, manic episodes, and self-mutilation, the days of their worst demons are over. There are

no white gowns, no shopping carts, no institutions present here, though these things have figured in some of the women's pasts. Yet all the interviewees are presented as intelligent, articulate, talented, and endearing women who have made the best of the lives they were born into.

This is, in itself, a major point behind Light and Saraf's film. Again and again,

we hear the women tell us of harrowing childhoods filled with incest, rape, poverty, and emotional abuse. These things can't help but take their toll. As one woman says, "You can't go to a ritual or be raped by your father then go to the fifth grade the next day and have everything be okay." Mairi, one of the film's two lesbians, learned to cope by developing multiple personalities. At one point, one of 25 selves even had a female lover that Mairi herself didn't know about!

There's also Deedee, Susan, and Hannah, who is perhaps the documentary's emotional centerpiece, a woman whose lifelong obsession with Bob Dylan is both a source of great pain and great pride to her. There's African-American R.B., who went from a

(Continued on page 36)

Michael Kearns' 'Myron' at Josie's

Words of Love



Felix as Myron in Michael Kearns' *Myron, A Fairy Tale in Black and White*. (Photo: Steve Savage)

by Kate Bornstein

Given that our queer community defines itself by love, it's a wonder there are so few love stories on our stages that we gladly claim as our own. Instead, we seem to be stuck watching heterosexual love, and we're constantly switching the genders of the lovers.

Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* is a classic tale of het love, charming and worthy of retelling; the remakes have been legion. With the Artists Confronting AIDS production of *Myron*, we can finally welcome that love story into our queer community without changing the pronouns.

Myron: A Love Story in Black and White, currently at Josie's, is playwright Michael Kearns' (*Intimacies*, *Rock*) love song to gay erotica. How do we express our eroticism? asks Kearns. How do we say I want you so bad all I can think about is you, day and night? If it's through our bodies, what do we do when our bodies are not able? In a community built on love and now wracked by AIDS, that's an important question, and Kearns rises to the challenge of providing a way for us to find some answers.

Kearns' story confronts us with *Myron*: a black gay man with full-blown AIDS, alone in a hospital bed. Rex, a cute white clone, is assigned as *Myron's* buddy, and the two begin weaving a relationship

that moves from distrust to friendship to attraction. Enter black body-builder Chris, and the sparks of desire leap between Chris and Rex. Problem: Rex is turned on by erotic language, and Chris can't say more than "Wanna fuck now ... or after we watch television?"

At one point, when Chris is on the phone trying unsuccessfully to talk erotically to Rex, *Myron* takes the receiver, and in a fantastic piece of

Kearns' script is poetry, and the language needs wings.

theater, he begins talking to Rex (who, white boy that he is, hears Chris' and *Myron's* voices as identical). *Myron* soars, and takes Rex on a phone sex journey that will go down in theater history (that is, it would if the straight pundits ever let our theater into their history).

The play progresses along the *Cyrano* line. *Myron*, smitten with Rex, continues to woo him through letters, pretending it's Chris who has written them. Rex adores *Myron* as a friend, but is falling madly in love with the man he believes to be Chris (who is, meanwhile, blissfully unaware of all of this). It's a delicious story line, one that allows room enough for Kearns' almost majestic ro-

(Continued on page 47)

'Backbeat' Depicts
Two Beatles' BondLove
With No
Name

by Daniel Mangin

Sometime in the '70s John Lennon told an interviewer that he'd never slept with a guy, but the ex-Beatle's phrasing made it seem that this might be more a matter of circumstance than outright abhorrence.

I remember musing at the time about Lennon's obvious capacity for emotional attachments to men and supposed that if he hadn't ever made it with a guy — after his death, rock scoundmonger Albert Goldman served up lurid



Ian Hart as John Lennon, and Stephen Dorff as Stu Sutcliffe.

tales of bisexuality — it was probably because he'd been born half a generation too early to relax into expressing such bonds sexually.

Then again, maybe he was 100-percent straight.

Whatever the case, judging

(Continued on page 36)

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OutThere

by Kevin Davis and
Ira Seitowitz

News from the literary world is that Edmund White is keeping himself really busy these days. He tells the Spring issue of *Bomb*, "I'm writing a novel called *The Farewell Symphony*, a book of short stories called *Skinned Alive*, and a book of essays called *The Burning Library*....I don't think there's anyone, not even my mother, who has seen everything I've written." Yes, and I'm sure there are a few things Ed you wouldn't want your mother to see.

Someone else whose mother wouldn't want to be privy to sonny's musings is Opera Queen Wayne Koestenbaum, who's been making the rounds of art journals lately with a little poem called "Piano Life," which appears in the current *Paris Review*, and his "Haunting Tune That Ends Too Soon" which appears in the *March American Poetry Review*. Also, in the *March Artforum* he discusses the Jasper Johns painting, "In Memory of My Feelings — Frank O'Hara, 1961" and writes "...back then I didn't linger over the possibly queer significance of ... his allusions to Hart Crane and Tennyson. Beholding this canvas, I was at once greeting queer feelings and — in retrograde motion — refusing all premonitory traces of that identification." Wayne's *Rhapsodies of a Repeat Offender* is forthcoming. ...

Serial Drag: also in *Artforum*, Divine-creator John Waters tells writer David Rimanelli, "I think the cutting edge of drag's been over for quite awhile." Maybe, but not according to the April 11 *The New Yorker* which reports on Lucky Cheng's, a restaurant in New York City where all the waitresses are Asian drag queens. Occupying a former bathhouse, the owners named the place after their Chinese busboy. Maybe

there's a new film in this for bored-with-drag Waters.

Somebody who certainly should be bored with drag by now is Fidel Castro, who, referring to the director of Cuba's Cinematheque, tells Ann Louise Bardach in the *March Vanity Fair*, "Alfredo Guevara has never been considered a homosexual in our country." Do I smell Marxist propaganda? Just ask Naum Kleiman, who, as a famous Sergei Eisenstein archivist, is hardly a novice on the subject. Kleiman will be in San Francisco starting next week to receive the 1994 Mel Novikoff Award, bestowed upon him by the SF International Film Festival, for his scholarly research into the life of the esteemed filmmaker. The man is a virtual wealth of information about Eisenstein's life, which includes, of course, his somewhat mysterious sexual orientation. ...



Many rivers to cross: Joan's tribulations with daughter dearest Melissa to hit the airwaves.

during May's sweeps on NBC. The film stars a bunch of unknowns from God knows where, but can you guess who's to play Joan? Why, it's none other than Joan herself. Do you think she'll be able to keep her mouth shut long enough for Melissa to get a word in edgewise? Someone get me a bucket, please.

In other film news, Strand Releasing's Marcus Hu apparently has a knack for coaxing people into working for little or nothing on film projects, but he may be taking his Tom Sawyer reputation too literally. A *B.A.R.* correspondent dropped by Hu's home last weekend and found *Totally F***ed Up* co-star Roko Belic, paintbrush in hand, toiling away on Hu's mother's bedroom. "Are you being paid?" demanded the *B.A.R.* on cute Roko's behalf. "We haven't discussed it, but I don't feel exploited," Belic declared, as Hu chortled in the background. No wonder it only took \$23,000 to make *The Living End*.

Grief star Craig Chester, recently bound and stabbed in Strand's *Frisk*, was back in town to shoot inserts for *The Straight Agenda*, a cheeky response to the right-wing *The Gay Agenda* (calm down, Mr. Finch, it'll be finished by gay film fest time). Jackie Beat, Chester's boss in *Grief*, plays a psychiatrist who turns him from straight to gay. He plays a crass heterosexual (who wears a T-shirt with the Tasmanian Devil and "Where are the chicks?" on it). A visit to Castro Street is part of the cure.



Swoon, Grief and Frisk star Craig Chester plays it straight (temporarily) in *The Gay Agenda*.

Cheap Hollywood dish: Bette Midler is busy these days writing notes to agents, but not about herself, about her hubby, Martin von Haselberg, who's about to graduate from AFI film school. She says the film project he wants to get off the ground is a "student film." She signs the letter Mrs. von Haselberg.

Bette's old compadre, Barry Manilow, is apparently selling his Bel Air home for 2.7 million. He's just sick and tired of neighbors like Liz Taylor and Zsa Zsa Gabor. Perhaps the main reason for his move from the house (with the hot pink garage door), is because Ron and Nancy Reagan moved in when they retired.

Did I hear someone say retirement? I don't think Joan Rivers knows what that is. But she ought to. The woman that television audiences love to hate is apparently going to be back on the tube soon with *Tears and Laughter: The Joan and Melissa Rivers Story*, a two-hour dramatic movie that traces the stormy mother-daughter relationship between Joan and her daughter Melissa Rivers following the 1987 suicide of Joan's husband, Edgar Rosenberg. It runs, wouldn't you know it,

Chester chatted briefly about life on the set while filming his "cameo" in the drecky *Diana Ross* made-for-TV movie that aired a few months back. "She is a diva, no doubt about that. I don't think she likes men. She treated all the men horribly and her whole entourage is made up of women." Now, now. No stereotyping.

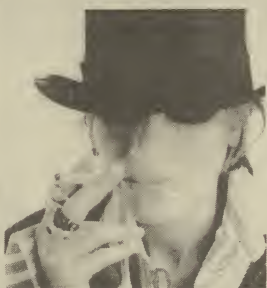
Stop the Presses! Just heard that Roseanne has filed for a divorce from Tom Arnold. See what happens when you get a face-lift. Does this mean that she's going to come out? ▼

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Virtual Reality, Post-Modern Musings at Center for the Arts

Painting the Town

by Roberto Friedman

There's a full house right now at the Center for the Arts at Yerba Buena Gardens. Three new exhibitions which opened simultaneously last week join *The Vitality of Vision*, a showing of paintings and drawings by homeless artists from the Hospitality House program, so that the galleries are full, and a profile of the new cultural center is beginning to emerge. With the three new shows — *New Old Masters*, conceptual sculpture by Belgian artist Wim Delvoye, and a virtual reality installation by Patrice Caire — the Center starts to fulfill its promise of a lively arts pluralism in its inaugural year.

New Old Masters, curated by Director for Visual Arts Renny Pritikin, embraces the work of ten painters who use the vocabulary of Renaissance art for their own modern purposes. For example, the show's signature work, Peter Edlund's *Infestation*, is in some ways a reworking of the style of the 16th-century painter Arcimboldo, famed for his animated workings of plants and floral forms. In Edlund's painting, flowers and leaves form the busts of two masculine heads entwined in a kiss. But the whole bouquet is prey to caterpillars slowly eating the lovers away. B.A.R. readers will not need to have the metaphor made explicit.

Edlund's works are a true highlight of the exhibition, his portrayal of healing herbs timely and laden with meaning. These paintings also have a sheer sensual appeal. *The French Kiss*, its figures composed entirely of tongue, speaks to those among us who seek deep oral gratification.

Realism

All of the artists collected here use the ploys of realism to differing conceptual ends. Adrienne Sherman begins with landscapes from Renaissance paintings and populates them with anthropomorphized animals, inverting the human-centered universe. Blake Summers' paintings, exquisitely imperfect from faux-aging processes, foreground the issues of conservation in our cultural archives:

what gets preserved and what doesn't?

There are many such rewards in *New Old Masters*, including Chikako Okada's sumptuous Vermeer-esque oil panels, in which a David or a Jan Van Eyck masterwork peers in from the background. I was particularly struck by Ken Aptekar's *Raphael with Another Man*, which deconstructs a detail from a painting by the Old Master, and forces us to acknowledge the context in which we view it — mitigated by such data as "oil on canvas, 99 x 83 cm, Musée du Louvre." There is no pure way to approach these cultural monuments, Aptekar

All of the artists collected here use the ploys of realism to differing conceptual ends.

seems to imply, unless it be to magnify and zero in on particular details.

From the 16th Century headlong into the late 20th: in recent years, conceptual artist Wim Delvoye has created a stir in the art world with his wit and invention, and this is our first chance to see his work in the Bay Area. All is not as it seems. An exquisitely carved armoire contains what at first glance appear to be Delft china plates, but which turn out to be circular saw blades. Concrete mixers are rendered from elaborately carved mahogany and teak. The most subversive work included here is perhaps the most beautiful: a baroque printed tile mosaic covers a section of the gallery floor, its dark brown curves curiously similar to... excrement. High art from base material indeed. Delvoye seems to delight in tweaking conventional expectation, in mixing up the spheres of fine arts, "lowly" construction and bodily processes.

Ron Vawter, 'Philadelphia' Co-Star, Dies

Experimental theater actor Ron Vawter, who played an attorney in the film *Philadelphia* has died after a heart attack on a flight from Zurich to New York City. He was 45, his agent said Monday.

Vawter died in his sleep during a flight on Saturday when he suffered a heart attack that was believed to be AIDS-related, said his agent, Philip Carlson.

In his off-Broadway, one-man show titled *Roy Cohn/Jack Smith*, Vawter won praise for his dual performance linking the right-wing lawyer and a transvestite performer, both of whom died of AIDS. The play has been filmed but not yet edited for release, said Carlson.

Vawter also had minor parts in films *Shadows and Fog*, *sex, lies and videotape*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Philadelphia* and *Fresh Kill* (featured in the upcoming SF Film Festival).

His acting career began in the 1970's with the Wooster Group, an experimental theater group in SoHo.

Vawter was born in Glens Falls, N.Y., graduated from Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y., earned a master's degree from New York University and served in the army as a recruiting officer before becoming an actor, Carlson said.

He is survived by his companion, director Greg Mehrten, and his mother and two sisters. ▼

Virtual realism

Leaving such earthiness behind, we ascend now to the Center's spiffy high-tech gallery, where French multimedia artist Patrice Caire has installed a fascinating *tour de force* of virtual reality technologies, klunkily titled *Cyberhead... Am I Really Existing?* (an acronym, you'll duly notice, for her surname.) Caire spent twelve hours in a Magnetic Resonance Imaging chamber, producing a sort of 3-D X-ray of her brain. Like Raquel Welch in *Fantastic Voyage*, you the museumgoer can now journey through Caire's brain tissues, zip around her eye, strut through her ear canal and sprint all over her face, thanks to the magic of a FakeSpace Boom, a virtual reality device. This was my first experience with such shenanigans, and I must admit I was seduced by the technology. The inner-body tour takes about five minutes, so try to get to the installation during off-hours, else you might be put off by a queue, as I nearly was at the press preview.

Virtual reality neural surfing, postmodern uses of traditional painting technique, and conceptual outrageousness from a young Belgian art wizard: a pretty lively mix. The Center for the Arts can't be faulted for timidity in its early programming. As important as its curatorial reach across country and over to the Continent, however, is the Center's apparent commitment to showcasing the work



Francesca Sundsten's *Dawn in the Topiary Garden*, 1993.

of our own community. The pictures by Tenderloin artists in *The Vitality of Vision* are as vivid and nourishing as anything that's been up on the gallery walls so far. The show from the Hospitality House art program is greatly enhanced by the free, Antenna Theatre-produced walkman tour. It supplies street sounds and the inner city artists' own reflections as a context for witnessing their creations.

All three of the new exhibitions remain on view until June 12. *The Vitality of Vision* continues through May 1. You can call 978-ARTS for details of gallery times and entrance fees. ▼

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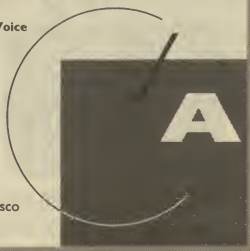
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Suzanne Westenhofer, Bob Smith, Kids in the Hall

Funny Business

by Alan Frutkin

As queer comics burst out of the so-called comedy fringe, broadcast and cable networks are struggling to "package" this humor for mainstream audiences. Nowhere was that struggle more apparent than at two recent comedy events in the Bay Area, HBO's filming of two queer comics at Bimbo's

earlier this month, and last week's live appearance of Canada's Kids in the Hall at the Palace of Fine Arts.

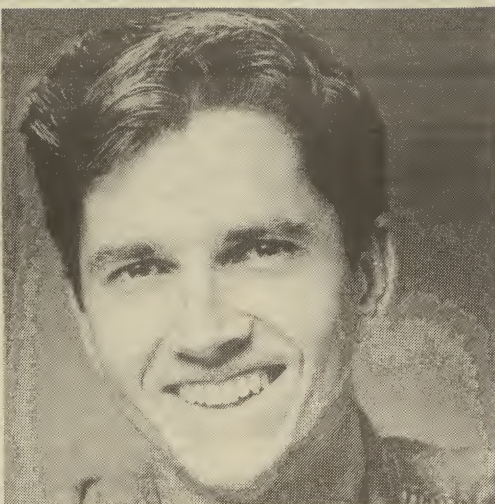
In June, HBO will air six new installments of its ongoing series devoted to emerging stand-up comics. Billed as the first time HBO will feature openly gay and lesbian comics in a comedy special, the cable network set up shop at Bimbo's on April 8 and filmed two well-known per-

formers on the queer comedy circuit — Bob Smith, of the New York comedy troupe Funny Gay Males, and the self-titled "famous lesbian comedian," Suzanne Westenhofer.

Comedy fans may recall that both of these performers were featured last year in Comedy Central's lesbian and gay comedy special, *Out There*, which was also filmed in San Francisco, at the Great American Music Hall. It was surprising — if not disappointing — to see, however, how much material from that special cropped up in both comics' routines at Bimbo's.

Having had five months between tapings to prepare new jokes, it seemed that Smith and Westenhofer had practiced only their old material. Although it enabled both comics to appear polished, an improvement over the *Out There* special, I question the wisdom of this redundancy for the first two queer comedy programs ever on television. At the very least, it came off as uninspired, if not lazy.

But that's not to say they weren't funny. They were. Westenhofer did a great bit that centered on her "closeted" girlfriend. Like Phyllis Diller's husband, Fang, this girlfriend is a great foil, and the closet provides Westenhofer with a wealth of new material. Likewise, Smith has added props to his set — old photos, report cards — which helped loosen up his otherwise stiff performance. In one hilarious bit, Smith read



Bob Smith

through a phony children's book called "Ben the Big Bronto," which left the audience rolling in the aisles.

Where was Lea?

Still, I can't help but wonder where my favorite queer comic, Lea Delaria, was in all of this. Now there is a brilliant comedian. Quick, sharp-witted, you never know what she'll do next. So where was she? Perhaps the cable network believes an openly gay or lesbian comic is "dangerous" enough and that they'd only be compounding that potential danger with a performer like Delaria, who could easily take "dangerous" to a new level?

Or could it be an image problem? Compare Delaria's in-your-face bull-dyke look to Westenhofer's squeaky-clean cheerleader smile, and it begs the question, Is HBO presenting the best of queer comedy, or merely what it considers the least threatening?

Enter Kids in the Hall. These guys are so completely outrageous, it's obvious why CBS can't figure out what to do with them. A year and a half ago, the network optioned them to help enliven a late-night lineup which for years had been their weakest programming link (a moot point now with the success of Letterman). Yet, almost immediately, the Kids were lost in a programming black hole, showing up anywhere between 1:30 and 3:00 a.m. on Saturdays, if they showed up at all. So what gives?

The Kids' performance at the Palace of Fine Arts last Tuesday was also far from inspirational. It came off, largely, as an uneven greatest hits show in which they hauled out some of their best loved characters for the enjoyment of a loyal following. If nothing else the show was educa-

tional, underscoring clearly why their humor scares the network.

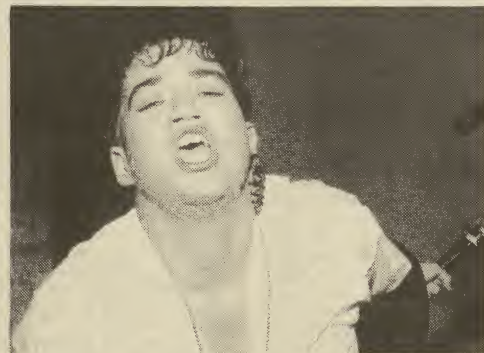
In the first place, it was vulgar (there was a burping sketch), and morbid (the Kids revived one of their earliest skits in which they mourn the death of a friend they murdered). When they weren't being crude, the Kids were either impersonating women, or performing outright gay humor (gay Kid, Scott Thompson, brought two of his most popular characters to the stage, the crimefighter Running Faggot and lounge-lizard-queen Buddy Cole).



Suzanne Westenhofer

Some of it is dangerous to say the least, and obviously, too dangerous for a network like CBS.

Of all the networks jumping on the queer comedy bandwagon, cable's Comedy Central appears to be the most gay-friendly. It airs Kids' repeats nightly in prime time. Last Sunday, it programmed eight hours of cross-dressing comedy under the rubric, "A Day in Drag." And in June, it will produce the second *Out There* special, which will be filmed in New York, during Stonewall 25. If lesbian and gay humor (from the safe to the dangerous) is to find a home on television, it will most certainly be on Comedy Central. ▼



Lea Delaria

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Kiki and Herb Mix It Up

Poconos or Bust

Jeremy Quittner

In Max Frisch's *Man in the Holocene*, old man Geiser has no time to spare. He buttresses the deterioration of his mind with complicated maps and geographies of the things he's forgetting daily, and he tacks these things to his living room wall. The familiar environment of his Alpine retreat becomes dangerous and unfamiliar territory during a simple afternoon walk, where one false step could plummet him to his death. Deterioration is beautiful, modern and it's human.

So, if some night soon you're feeling profoundly the spirit of the world's apocalypse and you're looking for something to do in the late hours when you know you're not going to get any sleep and don't want to, wander first on your trajectory to the Sky Room at Eichelberger's to catch Kiki and Herb in their *Burnt Out* tour. It's the last chance you'll have to see this duo, because Kiki's packing off to New York City this summer.

Seeing Justin Bond's latest show is like falling through the urban rabbit hole. Certainly, he is to the lounge act what James Joyce is to literature. With Kiki, Bond leads us through the twilight haze of an imaginary, third-rate performer's mind. (Think Tonya Harding meets Norma Desmond meets Veronica Voss.) He lends his comic genius to the scene like a klieg light illuminating a sordid magic lantern, setting out the elements of his act like Greek tragi-comic masks.

Sorry refugees

The story goes that the 53-year-old lounge performer Kiki, and her companion Herb, are escapees from the Love Boat, where they were dumped unceremoniously overboard "like so much Christmas trash" (and, we also learn, this is the real reason the Princess Lines were fined \$250,000 for unlawfully dumping garbage). Now, Miss Kiki plans to return east, to the Poconos circuit, where, in her heyday, she was known as "the Brass Buckle of the Borscht Belt".

Bond structures the show around a medley of popular songs, more like a geographical survey of the contemporary era than anything else. (If you're culturally challenged the way I am, be sure to bring along someone more in the know so they can help you decipher some of the references.) Herb, also known as Kenny Mellman, provides the noisy, but alert, piano accompaniment to all her meanderings.

Kiki's withering consciousness keeps interrupting her own songs with a fascinating, drunken barrage of information about seedy characters met in strange locations and pertinent reflections about the dilemmas of the day. By the end of the second song, a dramatic rendition of *Total Eclipse of the Heart*, it's clear Miss Kiki has had a little too much to drink. She proclaims, "That sounded like a finale, that was not a finale," and by the end of the first set she sits on the floor,



Herb, and the "Brass Buckle of the Borscht Belt," Kiki.

saying, "I just had to sit down for a minute, ladies and gentlemen." It's clear she can't wait for the show to be over, a fine metaphor for a comic actor who has exhausted every possible venue in the Bay Area.

Garden of the dead

This is the "Burnt-Out" tour. Miss Kiki's tired. She is a "show business casualty." It's complicated keeping track of the turns her mind makes, and it's even more impossible to predict them, as she ambles lovingly through the wrecked statuary of her past associations. Names like JFK, Jackie O. and Marilyn Monroe intermingle with those of her dead daughter Coco and her cousin Suzy Gold who appeared on *The Montel Williams Show*, and a whole host of others.

Bond is an absolutely engaging performer, and it seems that over the course of

ers here, of our own device."

Bond would no doubt make a first rate dramatic actor. But, he is, thankfully, a coloratura comedian in a world filled with the dismal monochromatics of tragedy. Surely it's only a matter of time before New Yorkers realize what San Franciscans have had for a long while. Justin Bond is not only a good performer, he's a great one. What the hell are we going to do without him? ▼

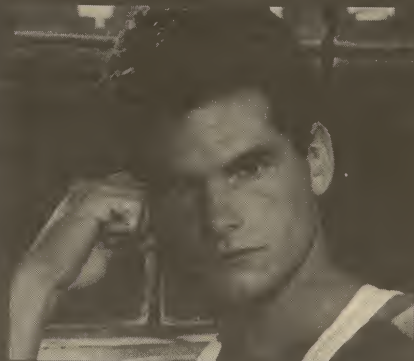
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Kiki and Herb are escapees from the Love Boat, where they were dumped overboard "like so much Christmas trash."

the year that he's been working on his Kiki persona, he's fleshed her out significantly. As this lovable alcoholic, he moves effortlessly from high-camp to dramatic tragedy to every other level in-between.

His encore, *Hotel California*, seems to reflect what refugees from the East Coast feel at times about their adopted homeland, the Golden State. The hopelessness and despair which we tried to escape there is here in other, sweeter forms. There simply is nowhere else to go, and we are imprisoned by our desire to be free, and freedoms come in many forms: "You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave...We are all just prison-

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Frederic Chiu and Leif Ove Andsnes

Youthful Interpreters

by Chris Culwell

The word on the street these days is that the piano is a dull old instrument played by dull old men. But evidence to the contrary was furnished last week when two young pianists came to San Francisco to prove that the piano, and its attendant literature, can still command an audience.

That the piano is an instrument whose riches have yet to be fully mined, is, to some, a foregone conclusion. But try

telling that to Frederic Chiu, a 30-year-old American-born pianist now living in Paris, and 24-year-old Norwegian Leif Ove Andsnes, two pianists struggling to build international careers in an age of rapidly declining interest in serious classical music. They'll tell you that the road to recognition is uphill all the way, a fight against overreaching marketing departments, whose goal it is, apparently, to reduce classical music to a sub-category of popular music, and television and

related media, which seem to be telling us that we simply don't have the time for musical events.

Under such conditions, artistic personality is hard-pressed to flourish, yet at surprisingly young ages pianists like Chiu, Andsnes, and others, such as the phenomenal Evgeny Kissin, are making an impression, carving niches for themselves in a field crammed with competitors. They make it look easy, but it's a task considerably more difficult today than in years



Frederic Chiu

past when Horwitz, Richter and Cliburn could, for reasons above and beyond their phenomenal talents, easily reign supreme.

Frederic Chiu

Frederic Chiu, a graduate of Indiana University and the Juilliard School of Music, emerged from oblivion last year after failing to make an impression at the Van Cliburn Competition. Whatever negative repercussions may have followed from that event, Chiu turned his bad luck around last week at a packed Herbst Theatre recital, a colorful, often intriguing performance that while far from perfect never failed to assert strong artistic personality.

Nevertheless, it wasn't always easy to gain a clear impression of Mr. Chiu's playing in the first half of the program. He covered considerable territory — Bach/Busoni transcriptions, a smattering of Debussy and Ravel, and Liszt — but he hardly chose idiomatic works of any one composer, leaving the audience hungry for something to really sink its teeth into. What Chiu offered merely suggested his considerable technique and sophisticated musical intelligence.

The real thing came in the second half of the program with a diverting, though imperfect, performance of Prokofiev's mammoth Sixth Sonata (Opus 82), one of the staples of 20th-century keyboard literature. By turns steely and voluptuous, this is taxing music for both listener and performer as it freely experiments with complex percussive chords, sweeping arpeggios and complicated rhythms in a long and thorny format. Despite its difficulties, however, Chiu traversed this sprawling terrain with no lack of confidence or aplomb, plumbing both the music's violent and decadent depths. One relished the manner in which he bestowed significance upon every phrase, his attempts to make connective elements in the music stand out while balancing the long line of the work.

Unfortunately, not all aspects of the sonata could withstand such close scrutiny. In an attempt to limn the more gorgeous features of the waltz movement, for instance, Chiu lost a certain degree of rhythmic control, allowing the variegated form of the movement to wander willy-nilly.

There were other drawbacks as well, for instance, Chiu's tendency for muddied articulation, which was most evident in the white-hot closing pages of the sonata, where one expects the greatest concentration of energy and intellect. Still this was a performance that never lacked bite or imagination. Chiu is, at least for these ears, a persuasive executant of music in this vein. And considering his youth, he has many years to polish his noteworthy interpretation.

Mixed results

The first half of the recital provided mixed results. Maurice Ravel's *Une barque sur l'océan* (one of five pieces from the set *Miroirs*) is certainly lovely music — and it's meant to sound as such — but it's also interesting music, which means that it should be taken more seriously than a series of shimmering surface effects.

From Debussy's *Images*, Chiu played two short works, *Cloches à travers les feuilles* and *Poissons d'or*. Chiu found his way to the heart of these tricky works, or at least got very close, with a display of admirably flexible impressionistic techniques. *Cloches* was positively dreamy, ethereal, while *Poissons d'or* had the requisite zing in the forte stretches. Still, one not infrequently had the feeling that these pieces were being played by someone who had not yet learned to live inside them, as if the lush, coloristic effects were being played after close perusal of a how-to guide and not from an engaged imagination.

The first half began with three velvety Chorale Preludes by J.S. Bach, transcribed by Ferruccio Busoni, and concluded with Franz Liszt's piano transcription of Gioacchino Rossini's *William Tell Overture*, a piece Chiu has recorded on the Harmonia Mundi label. That recording, reliable word has it, is much better than the unpleasant lump Chiu delivered last week. Inarticulate textures, finger slips and a *bruit terrible* failed to make an impression. It was the low point in an otherwise interesting performance.

Ove Andsnes

Young pianist Leif Ove Andsnes couldn't have had a harder task put before him than that which he mastered so effectively last week in his

(Continued on page 47)

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Dance

All-Robbins Evening at SF Ballet

Good Enough To Eat

by Eric Hellman

As most ballet lovers already know, this has been, so far, a rocky season for the San Francisco Ballet. Yes, there was one certifiable hit (Mark Morris' *Maelstrom*), but there were also two colossal duds (Donald McKayle's *Gumbo Ya-Ya* and Anna Laerkesen's *Sighing Land*), and the company has been plagued by a host of serious injuries. Thankfully, it now appears that things are looking much brighter for the season's final weeks.

In fact, Program VII, featuring an entire evening of choreography by Jerome Robbins (first seen Tuesday, April 12), is deliciously satisfying. It's everything that a successful night at the theatre ought to be. For starters, Robbins (now in his 80s and mostly inactive, at least in terms of making new work) is a choreographic master. His ballets are skillfully constructed, musically sensitive, full of drama and, more often than not, made poignant by a witty, ironic edge.

The current SF Ballet program is particularly pleasing because it illustrates the great variety of movement in Robbins' dances. *In G Major* (1975 — set to music by Maurice Ravel and seen here as a company premiere) might be described as the definitive "beach ballet," a sophisticated and highly intelligent version of a mostly puff-piece genre. But with Robbins it's also something more than that — something serious and slightly strange.

Interspersed between the first and third movements' romps for a corps of twelve dancers, there's a difficult, almost oblique, pas de deux for two principal dancers. Tuesday's cast featured the self-assured Katita Waldo partnered by guest artist Rex Harrington (he's a regular principal with the National Ballet of Canada). Harrington is a fine dancer and he exudes a restrained, smoldering sensuality. But his performance was marred by mannered affecta-

tions, emphasizing extra (and attention-grabbing) flourishes in the hands, upper torso and head.

The all-Robbins evening also includes *In the Night* (1970), a series of variations for three principal couples set to a selection of Chopin nocturnes. One of my colleagues describes this ballet as the choreographer's "leftover ideas from *Dances at a Gathering*," an hour-long Robbins' masterwork. But I prefer to see *In the Night* as a highly clarified distillation of Robbins' earlier piece. It was

The Concert highlights nearly every gaffe and personality type encountered at an evening of "serious" music.

performed with remarkable skill and emotional nuance by Joanna Berman and Jeremy Collins (couple in lavender), Sabina Allemann and Ashley Wheeler (couple in copper) and Evelyn Cisneros and Rex Harrington (couple in black).

Concluding the evening with a much-loved flourish, is the choreographer's brilliant, relentlessly funny, and equally haunting, *The Concert* (first premiered in 1956). This comic masterpiece highlights nearly every gaffe and personality type encountered at an evening of "serious" music. Joanna Berman's Ballerina and David Justin's lecherous Husband were especially engaging to watch.

Langridge Dance

In addition to the SF Ballet, I also had the pleasure last week of seeing Langridge Dance present a new work entitled *Landscape Memory* at Theatre Artaud. On the whole, the choreography by

Marin-based dance veteran Ruth Langridge is clear, precise and well-executed by her ensemble of eight dancers.

The new piece begins with a spoken text, detailing the death of a river from drought and industrial pollution. Then the dancers visualize this dilemma in movement. Admittedly, it all sounds a bit hokey, like a Jules Feiffer cartoon brought to the stage, but a great deal of the dancing is appealing, especially the small details Langridge creates for the hands and feet.

The Langridge Dance program also featured Kevin Wynn's *A Matter of Thirst*

(1993), a tightly constructed dance set to an engaging mixture of traditional South American music, and *Road 27* (1993), a tedious, clichéd exercise in ball tossing with a script by Sara Felder and movement by Langridge. In the future, it would be interesting to see less text and more musical-sensitivity from this talented choreographer.

Editor's note: San Francisco Ballet's program of choreography by Jerome Robbins will repeat on Thursday, 4/21, at 8 pm, and Saturday, April 23 at 2 and 8 pm. Also, the

great Danish dancer and mime, Niels Bjorn Larsen, performs the travesty role of *Madge* (the witch) in Bournonville's *La Sylphide*, Friday, 4/22 at 8 pm and Sunday, 4/24 at 7:30 pm. In addition, principal dancers Elizabeth Loscavio and Anthony Randazzo are tentatively scheduled to debut in the title roles of Helgi Tomasson's new staging of *Romeo and Juliet* on Wednesday, 4/27, at 8 p.m. Call BASS for tickets (415-776-1999) or visit the Ballet Box Office, Opera House, Mon-Sat, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., 301 Van Ness Avenue at Grove Street.

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Rex Harrington and Katita Waldo in Jerome Robbins' *In G Major*. (Photo: Marty Soh)

Film

Madwomen

(Continued from page 29)

promising law student to a bag lady in just a few months, and Karen, a self-described "ex-Communist Madwoman," to filmmaker Allie Light herself, who recounts being examined naked by a psychiatrist asking her questions about her sexual practices with her husband.

Intense Impact

The impact that *Dialogues With Madwomen* will have on most readers of this paper will be intense. As queers, we understand well the perspective of the outsider who is feared by and fearing of "mainstream" society. Also, many of us have been abused in various ways ourselves as both adults and children, locked up for our "craziness"

and subjected to "cures" that do more harm than good.

For women, in particular, however, the film will have the most resonance. Without preachiness and with absolute clarity, *Dialogues* reminds us of all the ways women have traditionally been violated and what may well happen as a result.

The idea that women can and will survive mental illness is what keeps *Dialogues* from ever bogging down. Although one of the women interviewed is tragically raped and murdered before the film's conclusion, the rest are seen expressing hope for the remainder of their days, often with a great deal of humor about what they have suffered.

The film's most satisfying moment comes when filmmaker and subject Allie

Light, speaking directly into the camera, recalls a psychiatrist's scorn about her desire to go to film school. He told her this would be a waste of everyone's time and that she should feel fulfilled as a housewife. Instead, she announces proudly, addressing him by name, that she wants him to know that she *did* go to film school and has been teaching now in the Bay Area for more than ten years! What's more, a previous documentary she made with Saraf, *In the Shadow of the Stars*, won an Academy Award in 1991.

There is much to be saddened by in *Dialogues With Madwomen*, but also much to be joyful of. We are never told, and indeed may never know, what drives certain people over the edge and not others, but we are shown that the human will to survive is incredibly strong. And though we may not identify in all ways with the women on screen, there are many ways



Allie Light, filmmaker.

in which we do. Thanks to this film, we are one step closer to understanding not how little we resemble them, but how much. ▼

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Backbeat

(Continued from page 29)

by Ian Softley's high-powered, melodramatic *Backbeat*, in the early 1960s Lennon was most definitely concerned about the label he thought might be applied to his affection for bassist Stuart Sutcliffe, known later as the "Fifth Beatle." One of the most pleasing elements of this entertaining film is its inquiry into male friendship.

Sutcliffe (played by Stephen Dorff) and Lennon (Ian Hart, who also portrayed the rock icon in Christopher Munch's *The Hours and Times*), met at art school in Liverpool. The handsome Stu

showed more artistic promise; John already had the fire of musical ambition raging in his belly. Hunter Davies' 1968 biography of the Beatles describes the two as "inseparable" and quotes Lennon at length about Sutcliffe's influence on him.

Hamburg Successes

Things started picking up for the Beatles after a trip to Hamburg. Softley's movie, which compresses history and takes dramatic license, focuses on the period between their early successes and the dawn of superstardom.

The band's first gigs in Hamburg's slimy Reeperbahn district—chronicled via an energetic camera and fast-paced editing—found them sharing the stage with erotic dancers. The audience was strictly lowlifes until a college student named Klaus Voorman (Kai Weisinger) happened into the Kaiserkeller. The next day, Klaus dragged his girlfriend Astrid Kirchherr (Sheryl Lee) down to see the band.

Stu promptly fell in love with Astrid, and she with him.

Astrid and Klaus were part of an artsy, straight-gay crowd ("exis," for existentialists, Lennon called them in Davies' book) that was always on the lookout for the hip and new. Sutcliffe mixed in more easily than Lennon, who scorned the phoniness of some in the set while simultaneously experiencing pangs over being left out. He began to begrudge the lure Astrid held for Stu.

"Along for the Ride"

Stu's attendance at rehearsals and gigs—the soundtrack, by the way, is raw and lively—became less regular. Always more passionate about painting, he "just came along for the ride" with John. Lennon, perhaps foreseeing how lonely it would be at the top, wanted his best friend to partake of the fame everyone could sense would come the Beatles' way. Under the guise of preserving the band, John attempted, sometimes cruelly, to undermine Stu's relationship with Astrid.

As depicted in *Backbeat*, Astrid doesn't so much come between the two men as open doors that Sutcliffe had always wanted to walk through. Lee is superb in her role and the film is all the

more compelling because she's not an evil interloper; from the start she appreciates John, even though he acts "like an asshole."

A contributor to the band's style (she took the first decent photos of the Beatles and is credited with creating their early, and for its time androgynous, mophead look), Astrid is also more perceptive about John's feelings for Stu than either of the guys. At one point she tells John flat out what's going on emotionally for him and he's flabbergasted.

Queer or Not?

Moments later, Paul (Gary Bakewell) wants Stu kicked out of the band. When Paul questions John's obstinacy—"If Stu goes, I go"—the two get into a shouting match about whether or not John's queer. The scene, which has comic overtones, is noteworthy because, contrary to similar situations in other films, it does more than merely transcribe homophobic behavior "realistically."

Given the period (1961), there is no doubt that a guy, especially one with Lennon's Liverpoolian upbringing, would leap to defend his manhood. Softley, who co-wrote the script, highlights the absurdity of John's fretting without being didactic. John knows he harbors tender feelings for Stu, but the only name he has for them—whether there's a sexual component or not—is "queer." Perhaps to compensate, both the Beatles' bio and the film indicate that Lennon's behavior toward his friend was often aggressive.

Classifying Feelings

Nowadays, we're just as desperate to classify feelings, desires and sexual acts as John was in 1960. The only difference is that there were fewer categories then or, more precisely, acceptable options for communicating very real emotions.

Gay audiences are so sensitive to being written out of history that the slightest chance artists or celebrities might be kindred spirits inspires the tendency to fixate on their sex lives (just ask Jodie Foster or Sandra Bernhard). In so doing, we commit the same infraction of which we accuse our foes: defining relations between persons of the same gender solely in

(Continued on next page)

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Books

Apocalypse? Here's How

Headhunter by Timothy Findley, Crown Press, \$23, hardcover

by Jim Provenzano

Set in the near future in Toronto, *Headhunter*, Timothy Findley's latest work, melds mental illness, biological plagues, spirits and fictional characters who pop out of books. There's also some very twisted gay content.

The main vector of these strange visions is Lila Kemp, recovering mental patient and medium to dead spirits and fictional characters.

The head of the mental ward is the crafty Kurtz, whom Lila believes popped out of a copy of *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad's classic novel, via her misguided supernatural powers (or insanity, depending on whether or not she's taking her medicine).

Birds are being slaughtered by white uniformed goons, as a new fatal disease's contagion is blamed on the winged creatures. It serves as another example of a world succumbing to the entropy of civilization.

Eventually Marlowe — as in the Conrad work — arrives, and conveniently moves in next door to Lila. But he doesn't know his mission will be to destroy Kurtz, who, in the original, led an army of insane deserter warriors.

The contemporary spin-off works, for a while. The mindless warriors are instead drugged teens who are led to their tragic demise. Other events, however, become more compelling than the climactic Malone/Kurtz meeting.

One male member of the book's Toronto society scions desires men in dresses, it turns out, and is secretly Yenta'd by Kurtz, who, as a top shrink, has access to all his and other doctors' files, and

their personal predilections. Kurtz is also one of several who attend an art opening, a pivotal scene where many of the characters appear, setting off the story's grand guignol liet motif.

Here, a painter with AIDS unveils his horrific, yet erotic, paintings of beheadings and murders to the shocked, yet checkbook-ready, patrons eager to buy depictions of "a panoply of naked men in thrall of other naked men, males in thrall of being male, boys and youths in thrall of masculine strength — and strength itself in thrall of force." Findley writes with such grace that the descriptions are savory, not sick.

The gays in his novel include knife-wielding pederasts and a twisted bunch of masked men who pay to watch young boys (and occasionally girls) act out sexual fantasies in a photographer's home. The subverted sexuality comes off as a sort of Marat/Cooper salon with Victorian decor and grunge victims.

Despite moral questions of gay representation, this is an enormously good read. Findley's accomplished skills at lengthy character histories give the nastiest of people a sense of humanity.

However, other extensive character histories impede the suspense of the latter chapters. The eventual confrontation between Kurtz and Marlow dissipates with a feverish denouement. Outstanding, though, is Findley's compassionate depiction of the interior thoughts of schizophrenics, compulsives and animals. Findley forges an elegant ride along the trail of tragic creatures, skillfully woven together by evil schemes and brutally unraveled. ▼

Editor's note: Timothy Findley will read from Headhunter at A Different Light bookstore, 489 Castro, on Friday, April 22, at 7:30pm. 431-0891.



Gary Bakewell and Chris O'Neill in *Backbeat*.

(Continued from previous page)

terms of sex, not acknowledging the complexities of human interaction.

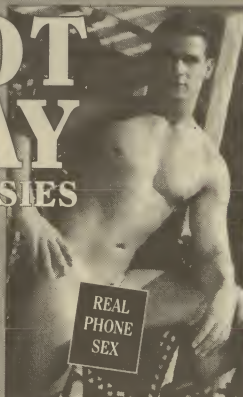
What makes *Backbeat* of interest is that while the film remains always aware of the sexual implications of John and Stu's closeness, it ultimately renders the "did they or didn't they" question irrelevant. The story of their friendship is crafted so sweetly, so judiciously that, to be blunt, who cares if they ever blew each other?

But then there's that poster campaign: "5 guys, 4 legends, 3 lovers, 2 friends, 1 band." Since Lennon hardly lays a finger on Astrid (though something could have happened during one dissolve), maybe there is more to be read between the lines — especially considering that *Backbeat* co-producer Stephen Woolley is the man who brought us Neil Jordan's *The Crying Game*. ▼

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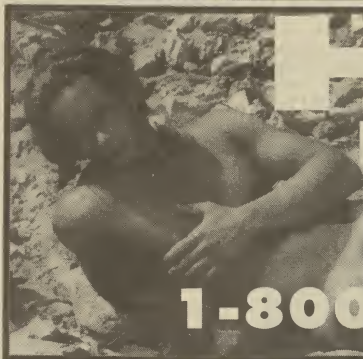
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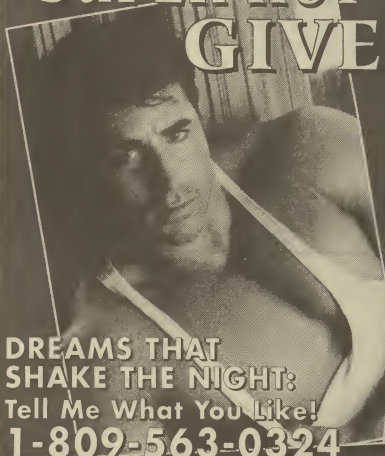
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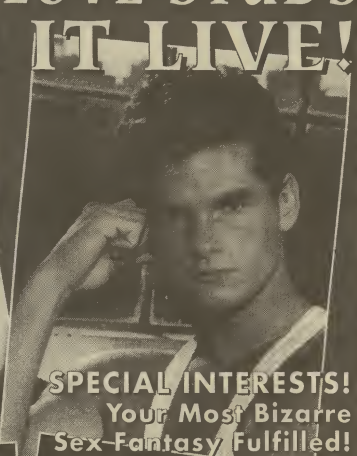
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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS AND FITNESS

Up in Smoke

by Dianne Aaronson

I've been thinking a lot about cigarette smoke lately. Of course, being an ex-smoker, I'm probably more aware of this killer than either smokers or people who have never smoked. Having been on both sides of this street, I am not only aware of how obnoxious this habit is, I also know how seductive it is for people in the throes of addiction.

In the 11-plus years that I have been smoke-free, I have refrained from lecturing anyone about this habit. I think back to all the times when my non-smoking friends and lovers put up with my habit — not to mention my bad breath and smelly clothes. I am reminded of "the old days" every time I see a friend or family member missing out on some fun or conversation because they had to leave to light up a smoke. When I visit my mother and wake up to the sound of her choking or wheezing during the night or early morning hours, I remember that I, too, as young as I was, had a smoker's cough.

When I was a dancer, I'd turn red at the end of ballet classes because we'd finish with a succession of jumps (32, 64 ...). When I moved to San Francisco 15 years ago, I'd huff and puff walking up the hills, even 10 minutes on a stationary bike at that time was a push. And though I knew that cigarettes no longer tasted good to me and I hated the damn things, I couldn't seem to let go.

Why did I finally stop? Because friends and co-workers used to make fun of me because I took vitamins, exercised and ate the right foods (I was "into health"), yet I was a contradiction in terms. So 11 Januarys ago, on New Year's Day, I stopped smoking. It's probably the best single action I've ever taken toward taking care of myself.

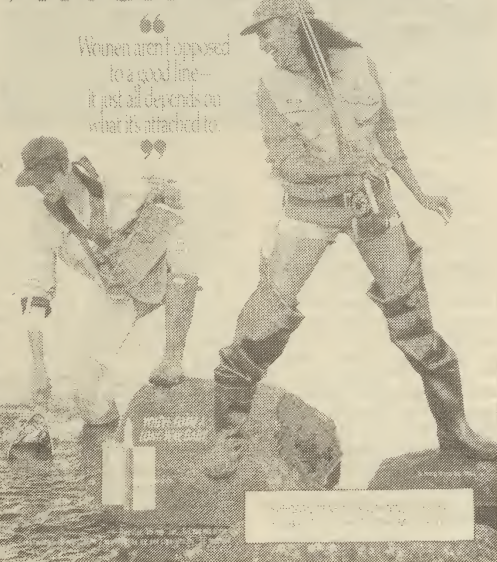
Hooked in Beijing

Last week on PBS I watched a documentary about the influx of Western tobacco into Mainland China. These companies are real snakes. They know they're losing business in the U.S. (many of their most loyal customers are dead) and that China represents one quarter of the world's population.

The Chinese government has put restrictions on cigarette advertising, so the big four tobacco manufacturers finance drag races and discotheques instead. They're targeting teenagers, of course, because they're the most likely group to respond to peer pressure, and unfortunately, being "cool" nowadays means having Western accouterment, like cigarettes.

These kids are falling for the idea that the hip Western young adult smokes like a fiend. And because tobacco usually doesn't kill its victims for anywhere from 20 to 40

VIRGINIA SLIMS



years, it's hard to convince people that it is poison. Meanwhile, the tobacco industry is guaranteed customers for at least those 20 to 40 years until these people die, too.

In the March 1994 issue of *Sober Times* is a reprint of an article first published in September 1990 by Emanuel Peluso, director of Adult Services at San Luis Rey Hospital in Encinitas, California. The statistics cited are quite devastating. Let me share some with you:

A single cigarette takes five minutes from a smoker's life. In one week that can add up to about ten hours. By smoking two packs a day, a chronic smoker shaves no fewer than eight — and up to as many as 18 — years from his/her life.

Every year half a million smokers are hospitalized for chronic bronchitis and pulmonary emphysema.

Cigarettes are the direct cause of one-third of the 520,000 annual cases of ischemic heart disease, the number-one cause of death in the U.S.

Cigarettes cause over 80 percent of lung cancers, the most common form of cancer in the U.S., in addition to cancers of the larynx and throat.

Smoking can also cause chronic inflammation and gangrene in the limbs, a potentially fatal condition.

Smoking a pack a day also doubles the chance of bladder cancer.

Smoking compromises the immune system to such an extent that smokers who are HIV positive are twice as likely to develop AIDS as non-smokers.

In California, a state known for being health-conscious, smoking is responsible for 16 percent of all adult deaths and almost 15 percent of all hospitalizations, excluding pregnancies. Medical care costs in 1985 totaled more

than \$4 billion. In other words, each pack of cigarettes sold costs the American economy \$2.17 (which does not include the costs of illnesses from secondary smoke).

More Americans die each year from tobacco than from fires, car wrecks, illegal drugs, murders and AIDS combined!

Bad News for Women

Peluso's update of this article includes the following new data which looks pretty bad for women:

A 1994 study found that today's woman is five times more likely to develop smoking-related cancers than her grandmother was. It was found that smoking in one's twenties can lead to colon cancer later in life, even if the smoker has quit long ago!

Cigarette for cigarette, women are 20 to 80 times more at risk for lung cancer than men.

The secondhand smoke issue has been studied more intensely as well. In 1993 the EPA recommended that parents of young children refrain from smoking in their homes because of "serious and substantial" health risks. Up to 300,000 cases of bronchitis and pneumonia in children under 18 can be traced to secondhand smoke.

The facts are gruesome and hopelessly hard to ignore. For those of you out there still sucking on that cig, do yourselves a favor and find a way to quit. You'll save money and time, and you can still improve your health and the health of those around you.

Public health services and local hospitals often sponsor stop-smoking clinics. Look up the phone number of the hospital or public health facility nearest you and find out when the next clinic is. A few weeks of discomfort are worth it when you might be adding years to your life. ▼

The Gay Games Cometh

by Rick Thoman

Opening Ceremonies for Gay Games IV in New York City are less than two months away. The opening event will be held at Columbia University's Wein Stadium on Saturday, June 18th, at 6 p.m.. Tickets for opening and closing ceremonies, as well as other athletic and cultural events, go on sale starting May 1. For ticket information, contact Unity '94 at (212) 883-9060.

The events, dates of activity and locations are as follows: aerobics on June 22-23 at the Hotel Pennsylvania (which is also the Unity '94 Headquarters); badminton, June 22-24 at Queens College; basketball, June 19-25 at Lehman College, with finals June 25th at NYU; billiards, June 20-24 at Amsterdam Billiards; cycling: circuit race June 19 in Central Park, Critterium June 23 at Riverside Park, time trials June 21 at Prospect Park, and off-road race June 25th, site to be announced.

Wrestling will take place at New York University June 20; flag football on June 20-24 at Prospect Park; golf June 20-22 at Split Rock and Pelham golf courses; tennis at the USTA National Tennis Center on June 19-25;

triathlon June 19 starting at Orchard Beach in the Bronx; track & field at Downing Stadium (Randall's Island); and the marathon June 25th beginning and ending at Tavern On the Green in Central Park.

The Carmine Street Recreation Center will play host to martial arts on June 21-24, judo on June 25, and powerlifting on June 19-20. The Asphalt Green Aquatic Center is the site for multiple events, with diving slated for June 20-22, swimming June 19-21, 23 & 24, and water polo semi-finals and finals on June 19-25. Abe Stark Arena in Brooklyn is on tap for ice hockey June 19, 20, 22-25 and the premiere of figure skating at the Gay Games is on June 21, 23 & 24.

Other first time sports include table tennis at Los Battalion Hall in Queens June 20-22; in-line skating at Prospect Park on June 19 and sport climbing at Inner Uall in New Platz on June 24-25.

Racquetball starts June 20 at Hunter College and runs through June 24; soccer takes place at Flushing Meadow Park June 20-24 with the finals at Central Park June 23-25; slow-pitch and fast-pitch softball (two separate events) run June 19-25 on Randall's Island with the finals at Central Park; volleyball will be at two locations: June 19-22 at

Queens College and June 20-25 at Hunter College; squash is set for three locations: the New York Sports Club in New York City and in Brooklyn, and at the Eastern Athletic Club in Brooklyn.

Physique preliminaries are slated for the Hotel Pennsylvania on June 21 with the finals (always a sold out event) at the Paramount Theater on June 22.

Registration for athletes begins Thursday, June 16th at 9 a.m. (and runs 'till 10 p.m.) at the Unity Center at Pier 90 (50th St. & the West Side Highway). Athletes should be getting confirmation of their registrations in the mail, or already be confirmed. By mid-January over 8,000 athletes had registered and Unity '94 officials believe 15,000 will ultimately participate.

More Gay Games IV information will be available at the next Team San Francisco general membership meeting on May 21st at the Eureka Valley Rec Center. ▼

The San Francisco Gay Games track team is hosting a benefit dance/fashion show at Club Bahia on Sunday, May 1st, at 5 p.m., to raise funds that will enable players to participate at Gay Games IV. Track team members will act as models for designs from Injeanious and music for the



evening will be by DJ Clay. Tickets are available in advance at Injeanious, or from SF Track & Field Club members at \$7 each, or two for

\$12. Tickets are available at the door for \$10. Track team members will also be auctioned off for dinner dates. Ooooh Baby!

Flag Football Scores

by Maureen Hogan

After a brief Easter break, Women's Flag Football resumed action recently in a series of tensely fought games. In the first, the Posse upset the Avengers. On the Posse's first possession, quarterback Rosana Martinez found Pippa Fleming crossing the field and she turned on the jets for 80 yards to score. When the Avengers got the ball back, quarterback Jen Galbreath was intercepted by Pippa and ran 50 yards for another score. This put the Posse up 13-0. An interception by each team stifled any further scoring for the half. Late in the third quarter, quarterback Rosana found an open receiver for another touchdown, making the final score, 21-0.

The second game was between the Rebels and Team SF. The Rebels wasted no time. Their first score was a 60-yard pass from quarterback Laura Carpenter to Sally Carter. Team SF came right back when quarterback Jennifer Bice threw a long pass for 80 yards to Anna Emery. The Rebels then came back with a 60-yard

pass to Michelle Brodie to set up a 10-yard scoring pass to Kelly Paul, which made the score 13-6. The game proceeded well from there. The final score: 27-6.

Next, Fear This took on the Warriors, scoring in the second quarter on a pass from quarterback Jill Brophy to Linda Pieters. On the Warrior's next possession a pass was thrown over the middle and Olga Gutierrez intercepted, running it in for a 40-yard touchdown. Later in the half, Karen Diaz, of Fear This, sacked the Warrior's quarterback in the endzone, making the score 15-0. In the second half, the Warrior's Gayla Faahs intercepted only to have Kim Reynold's return the favor. The Warriors were intercepted again by Linda, which set up a pass for a touchdown to her from Jill Brophy for 50 yards. They scored again in the fourth quarter when Jill found Kim open; she ran it in for a 45-yard touch down. Final score was 35-0.

The next game was The Cafe vs. The Girlfriends, which was last season's championship dual. It turned out to be quite a battle. The Cafe scored what was to be the only score of the game on a 15-yard pass from quarterback Dona Nielson to Mar Stevens. Both teams' defenses tightened up and any other scoring attempts were stopped. The Girlfriends almost tied the score with 20

seconds left when they were downed at the one-foot line on the fourth down. The Cafe prevailed, 6-0.

In the last game, Team SF battled Fear This and they traded interceptions in the first quarter. The second quarter was much different for Fear This. Their quarterback, Vicky Martin ran 5 yards for a touch down when they scored again on their next possession. The final score was 19-0. Fear This victorious.

Anyone interested in our league? If so, call 479-1131, or come out to the Polo fields. We will be at Louis Sutter field on April 24, May 1 and May 15.

Play of the week: The Posse's Pippa Fleming turned on the jets when she turned a five-yard pass into an 80-yard touchdown in the Posse's first victory.

Player of the Week: Olga Gutierrez of Fear This, who scored two touchdowns and had two interceptions in her team's victory. ▼

League Standings:

Rebels 5-0
Fear This 5-1
Girlfriends 4-1
Avengers 3-2
Cafe 3-2
Posse 1-3
Team SF 1-4
Yikes 1-4
Warriors 0-6.

Racquetball Action

The Bay Area Racquetball Club, in conjunction with Schoeber's Athletic Club of South San Francisco, announces the start of its Spring/Summer Racquetball League, a fun, social league open to all skill levels. The club is for men and women.

This is a mixed, handicap league that starts play on Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. and continues each Saturday for approximately 12 weeks. Cost per person is a special price of \$40, which includes a league t-shirt or shorts. League participants need not be members of Schoeber's.

For more information, or to sign-up, call Wref Fulton (285-6909) before May 10. This is a perfect way to get your racquetball game in shape for Gay Games IV. Even if you're not going to New York, the league promises to be great fun for all. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Mark Guernville - We met via Robert P. in Guernville Safeway. I'm still interested in your offer! Call for current phone number. EXT 2481.

The Spread, around Midnight, Saturday 3/26. You: 20s, dark hair, half-collar white shirt w/ dark stripes, jeans. Brushed against me twice by main floor bar (was too loud) saw you later outside but with 2 others (too shy). Me: 30s, checked pullover w/ hood, jeans, stache & long sideburns. They say 3rd time's a charm. Will you join me for lunch? EXT 2482.

Hartford b/w 17th & 18th - 12:45pm, 3/26. Me: black sunglasses, plaid shirt, tall, mustache, carrying folder. You: sleeveless t-shirt, tall, vanished on 17th St. Call me. EXT 2483.

Steamworks 3/24 am - You: Room 213, work for UAL, live on Haight St., I live in Piedmont, drive a Mustang. We enjoyed each other, were going to return to your place but never connected again. I'm still interested. EXT 2484.

22 Fillmore, Thur. 3/24, 6:45pm - You: Jacket w/ black hood, nose ring. I got on at Hayes & sat next to you w/ leather jacket & reading the BAR. You kept glancing at my paper. Wanna come & read together? EXT 2485.

MacArthur BART to Civic Center 3/21 - You: cute Latino wearing blue shirt & black boots. I was wearing black leather coat, w/ black backpack & walkman. Would love to talk to you. EXT 2486.

SF Eagle 3/19, Craig - Loved your nifles, have to have them! Need them, want them now! Couldn't see you that night, but dream about you now. Please call me, we're both missing out. Call today. EXT 2548.

Hot & Hunky on Market, Easter 6:30pm - You: in b/ball cap, shorts, sweatshirt, ordering takeout. Me: blue t-shirt, bluejeans, eating there. We were listening to song being sung in bar next door; so was I. Please call. EXT 2555.

Corner 14th & Castro, Mon. 3/28 - You: curly dark hair, black jeans, silver left ear hoop, beautiful smile, crossed in front of white Subaru, had to wait for light, we stared and smiled. Me: pink t-shirt under light blue shirt. Lets do dinner, call me. EXT 2590.

4/10 Sunday AM, Upper Fillmore - You: handsome man shopping w/ 2 friends in black BMW, wearing red shirt & beige shorts. I'm was in olive pants, plaid shirt, glasses. Think you wanted to say more than just hi, so did I. Call if still interested. EXT 2591.

Campus Theatre, Fri. 4/1 - Greg from San Mateo, you're a very hot man, can't get you out of my mind. Like to get you naked and make you cum! Pleasure assured, fantasies fulfilled - Mike. EXT 2592.

Thursday, 4/7, 7:00pm - You: on phone in front of Under One Roof; tall, tanned, dark hair, white undershirt, gym bag, great body & eyes; disappeared into Detour. Me: dark hair, jeans. Our eyes met several times, but too shy to do anything. You: very hot. Me: a fool. EXT 2593.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIPS

M-M

Looking for that Special Someone! - GWM 31, 5'8", 165#, bl/bl, muscular, sense of humor, enjoy outdoors & romantic evenings; career & gym oriented. Not into gay life. Seek similar, goodlooking, masculine, relationship-oriented person. EXT 2489.

Romantic BiWM 50s - 5'7", 160#, clean shaven, N/S, N/D, HIV-, mid-penisula, looking for playmate or maybe best friend. EXT 2487.

Short Guy Wanted - You must be cute, under 30, & great cuddler. Goodlooking 24y/o Italian student/professional, needs a date. EXT 2488.

Into Gens? - German born jewel of a top, 46, br/bl, glasses, 5'8", 200#, 34" w. Seeks LTR with tall, proportionate to height, clean-cut, mature GWM bottom, my age or younger, N/D, jeans busting butt a must. Sincere only please. Remember, diamonds are forever. EXT 2490.

GAM Wanted - Have fun and love with me, if you are intelligent, 20s, friendly, I am GWM, 40s, English, intelligent, friendly, financially secure, romantic. EXT 2491.

non-drug user type. Me: HIV+, 42"ch, 30" w. White. I have my own small business & have an alternative lifestyle that everyone finds interesting and attractive. Call, hear my voice, and lets improve interracial relations. EXT 2501.

GWM 27 - SF/SU Lit. student, seeks GLM 19-35, N/D or alcohol. I'm HIV- but active in HIV outreach in Central America; also support the FMLN. I like classical music, art, and left wing politics. Seeking someone to date and possible relationship. EXT 2502.

Good Husband Wanted - 33y/o, 5'10", GL/IM, seeks TLC committed relationship w/ healthy, tall, emotional, physical, & spiritual person 25-40. I like to travel, have sex, eat out, hike, sunbathe, and go to movies/plays. prefer N/S, & someone who is recovery minded & physically fit. EXT 2503.

sensuous, and ready for LTR. EXT 2558.

GWM Young 50 - 5'11", 165#, clean shaven, N/S, N/D seeks HM, AM 25-30 for LTR, travel build business together, HIV-, movies, bowling, photography. EXT 2559.

Good Head On His Shoulders - Busy, handsome, shy, masculine GWM searching for sensitive, fit, & worldly GWM 25-40 with good head for LTR. I'm 36, 6'1", 190#, br/bl, bright, well traveled, outdoorsy. You're versatile, masculine, relaxed, romantic and not damaged goods or addicted. East Bay, HIV+ OK. EXT 2560.

Best 69 in SF! - Hot, buffed, 5'11", 175#, balding, dark hair, moustache, 40y/o, HIV+, affectionate seeks hot erotic massage & sex w/ versatile, shape, hairy legs. Poss. LTR. EXT 2561.

Musculine & Rugged - Gymtosed Asian, 46y/o, 5'9", seeks similar smooth and clean-shaven WM for friendship or more. Enjoy the outdoors, workouts, travel, and dining out. EXT 2562.

Tired of the Bar Scene? - Fed up w/ attitude? Outgrown silly games? Honest, goodlooking, shy GWM 6', 165#, is looking for sincere goodlooking lover or friend. Must enjoy movies, music, & quiet evenings at home. Kissing & cuddling, also a must. EXT 2563.

Smart Attractive GAM - 29, 5'9", 170#, clean-cut, young professional seeks friends who can show me around & poss. LTR. EXT 2564.

Missing Physical Intimacy - Blue eyed, creative, handsome, pagan-humanist, progressive, sexy, 30s, poet/novelist, very male, HIV-, & rich in spirit, intellect, & psyche. Emotionally available. Into Beatles, Buddhism, cigarettes, community, gym, reality sex. Seek beautiful likewise for Adventure. EXT 2565.

Hot In Shape - GWM, 31, 5'9", 140#, br/bl, seeks hot muscular man any race. I'm fun, safe, HIV-, you too, please. EXT 2566.

GWM 33 - Enthusiastic lover of life, heavily into romance & cuddling. Looking to date to find mate not date to mate. I'd be interested in finding a man 30-45 who enjoys candlelight dinners, weekends away, movies, shopping... with 6'1", attractive man w/ hairy chest & back & football players build, br/blz. EXT 2567.

Wheelchair guy - Soon to be lawyer seeks big hearted, high self-esteem sincere guy to share enriching loving happiness & life. EXT 2602.

Rugged and Butch - Are you rugged and butch, have moustache or beard, very handsome, perhaps drive a pick-up truck? Are you gentle yet passionate, strong yet sensitive? I'm GWM 27, 5'10", 165#, stache, very attractive, butch, hot, simple, yet wise beyond my years, great looking, great body, awesome lovemaker. I'm mostly a bottom seeking mostly a top. N/S, ND EXT 2366.

Where's the Beef - I'm a super hot & butch 38y/o with blonde flat top & handbeater moustache. Love to suck, fuck, rim, etc...I'm HIV-, but you need not be. Give me a call. EXT 2594.

Witty World Traveler (Top) - Seeking very straight acting gay or bi for LTR. I'm 35, resemble Dustin Hoffman. Into biking, hiking, yoga, hugs, vegetarian, HIV-. Shy emotional types preferred under 35. EXT 2596.

Boots, Piss & Cum - Wet cum soaked jeans keep it hot, but good conversation makes it last. Mid 40s, short, masculine, leatherman looking for same. EXT 2597.

Hairy GWM 39 - Husky, balding, w/ moustache, seeks guy 20-30 w/ attractive boyish looks for possible relationship. I enjoy bicycling, films, sex. EXT 2598.

Master Seeks Slave - Into permanent ownership. Slave must be masochistic, totally obedient & dedicated to servitude! Life choice

decision! Master: GWM 42, 6'3", 240#, masc. & handsome. Slave: GWM under 35, in shape. EXT 2595.

Smart Texas Raised GWM - Affectionate, svelte, HIV-, light br/bl, full lips, attractive, 22, enjoy unusual food, Rosalind Russell, & travel. Seek ONE real GWM/GLM, 20-36, N/S, definitely grown-up, & bright, probably prominent nosed & lean. EXT 2599.

Muscle Top - WM, fit, healthy, mature, 5'9", 160#, bl/bl, 29w, 15a, 42ch, seeks LTR or pal for love, sex, travel, fun. Any age. EXT 2600.

Romantic Big Guy - 6'3", 270#, GWM, average looks, relationship oriented. Likes dinner, movies, & quiet times w/ right person. You: GAM, honest & sincere. Looks not important, but heart is. EXT 2601.

Paraplegic Playmate - Me: GWM looking for good sex (have had paraplegic lover before). I'm very endowed, blonde hair, tall (over 6'7") live in SF. I like good dinners, movies. RN. for 16 years, now mix business with pleasure. EXT 2603

Handsome Balding GWM Bottom - 32, in shape, HIV+, hairy, sensual & affectionate, seeks similar goodlooking masculine, relationship oriented nice guy into outdoors, romantic nights, working out, travel, movies, & humor. EXT 2604.

Financial Problems? - Masculine WM professional 54y/o seeks very masculine guy under 28y/o, clean cut, 5'10" or under, N/S, N/D, I'm financially secure but no one to share it with. You provide companionship and I can solve your financial problems. EXT 2605.

Fat Fabulous GWM - 30y/o, bl/bl, HIV+, not the butcheste, seeks anyone w/ a sense of humor, GWM or GHM preferred. EXT 2606.

Gay Cardinal Sins - Fat & fem, but most fabulous. GWM 34, 6'1", br/bl, looking for relationship oriented Asians with a great outlook on life. EXT 2607.

W.C. Bodybuilder - 42, 5'6", 165#, 42"ch, 31" w. 16" b. 88. I seek, if you don't like it, don't call. You: 25-45 similar build, but open. Like outdoors, walks, doing things, etc... staying home - call. EXT 2608.

GBM 31 - 5'7", 140#, seeks GBM 30-35 for friendship, sex, movies, dancing, and possible LTR. Must be versatile. EXT 2609.

Attention HIV+ Men - Me: 5'11", 170#, 30, handsome, in shape, healthy, HIV+, blonde. Seek Handsome HIV+ 28-40 for friendship or possible LTR. Call me I'm worth it. EXT 2610.

Tough to Love? - Very active, demanding job, volunteering? Would like someone tending home fires? Me: GWM 32, handsome, sincere, independent, enjoy diverse activities. Like energetic, self-motivated men or couples (both tops) to surrender his pliable butt for stretching. Experienced tall tops only, any race. EXT 2635.

Someone to Hold - That's what I desire. GBM 31, 6'4", 189#, HIV-, very sincere & masculine. Lost love to AIDS in '93. Looking for romance & affection. Prefer attractive honest person under 44 for dating etc... EXT 2636.

Paraplegic? - Seeking G/Bl/Bl/LA para. friends for dating. GWM para. 38, bl/gr, red beard/moustache, hairy. EXT 2386.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

M-M

Hey SF I'm Back & Horny - GWM, HIV+, 44y/o, 210#, tall, moustache, hung real nice, living SoMa. Not into bars or smoke. Seek buddies for ongoing mutual j/o, 69, & suck balls, big dicks, porno, late

night parties & hot nasty fun. Face & chest hair a plus. Please no trolls, fems. Man to 60shs. Lets get naked & feel good, cum together all over & then some more, ready? Yeah! EXT 2528.

Romantic BiWM 50s - 5'7", 160#, clean shaven, N/S, N/D, HIV-, mid-penisula, looking for playmate or maybe best friend. EXT 2487.

Uncuts Only! - 37y/o, Latin uncult bottom is seeking Black top uncuts or Latins age & looks unimportant, just good sex, HIV-, safe only. lv. #, your place. EXT 2521

East Bay WM - 46, 6', 165#, need top. East Bay safe fuck-buddy, any race, UC a plus. Also used/abused jockeys. EXT 2522.

Redhead Wanted - Hot Latino, 5'10", 150#, super sexy, and lots of fun. Seeking hot redhead cohort for playful recreation, hot sex and poss. LTR. Be in good shape and a natural redhead. HIV+ preferred. EXT 2523.

Looking for Older BM - Who wants to lie back while I suck your cock, balls, & butthole. Your place. Me: goodlooking prof. WM 34, City or East Bay. EXT 2524.

Shy, Introvert? - You need me. I can alleviate your fear, I'm a goodlooking green eyed 88, honest. You must be tall & top. Discretion assured. EXT 2526.

Tight White Butt - Needs dominant top service. Hard bodied, handsome, 38, 5'6", 130#, regular action a plus. EXT 2527.

Bottoms Up - Attractive Asian & GWM seek a GAM or GWM for 3-way fun. You between 18-25, in shape. Call us, you won't regret it. EXT 2529.

Naked in the Shower - Trim straight-acting WM 39, looking for slender masculine guys 20s or 30s for clean wet fun. EXT 2530.

I'll Squeeze Your Tits & Butt - You suck my cock & balls. 37y/o GWM, 5'9", 250#, stocky, wants tall, husky, HIV- man under 45y/o. EXT 2531.

Big Feet? - Wear high-tops? Play ball? This goodlooking white boy/man will service you in more ways than you can imagine. Any race, healthy body & mind. EXT 2532.

Got the Puberty Look? - 18+, the "wall", hot, hairless crotch, hopefully uncult! Granddad gives to-the-root gumjobs. All races, sizes. EXT 2533.

UR Manly - Couple/single hot & ready for nasty sex with flattop blonde, handlebar stache, 5'9", 140#, 38 and very sexy. Also HIV- and wear uniforms & leather. EXT 2534.

Hairy Butt - Goodlooking bottom 88 seeks submission fantasy with top men or couples (both tops) to surrender his pliable butt for stretching. Experienced tall tops only, any race. EXT 2535.

Hot Tight Bottom - Sexy GWM 27, 5'9", 160#, very goodlooking, wants to be fucked by experienced top with big dick. Hairy, stache, N/S, a plus. EXT 2500.

GWM Looking for Sex Therapy - I'm looking for either a GWM or GAM who loves giving sex therapy to older men (51y/o) like myself. I love to be played sexually as well. EXT 2536.

Italian Ex-Football Jock - Seeking hot expert oral service on regular basis. Call for description and message. EXT 2537.

Nude Sunbathing - Hot 28 y/o, naked sun-worshiper seeks pools, backyards, decks, rooftops. Hedonism, tanning oil, nakedness, and warmth of the afternoon sun. EXT 2538.

Husky Very Hairy Daddy - Bear GWM 46, HIV, 5'11", 220#, balding, uncult, seeks HIV- GWM or GHM cult for artistic intellectual and erotic stimulation. EXT 2551.

Bartalk Ad of the Week.

To respond to this or any other ad please call

1-900-844-2227.

You must be over 18 to call.

Boots, Piss & Cum - Wet cum soaked jeans keep it hard, but good conversation makes it last. Mid 40s, short, masculine, leatherman looking for same. EXT 2597.

Kinky Leather Bottom - 40s, HIV-, seeks LTR w/ HIV- toman into S/M, W/S, oral service. Companionship & affection important. Bottom is N/S, N/D, in Castro. EXT 2492.

Enjoy Flea Markets & Garage Sales? - I do & I'm looking for other men who are collectors and share the thrill of the chase. I'm 39, romantic Mid-Westerner, w/ simple tastes. If you share my interests in collecting & are looking for friends, lets talk. Who knows, we might find more than bargains. EXT 2493.

Model Trim Body - Prof. GWM 48, 5'8", 145#, cute all over, fun loving, caring, sexy Seeks a friend for LTR. Not into bars. Stuck in Vallejo without u. EXT 2494.

Hispanic Friend & Lover Wanted! - I love your dark hair, moustache, and brown skin. You'll love my 6'4", blonde hair, blue eyes. We love our time together, traveling, dining, movies, watching TV or listening to classic rock. No into bars or gay scene. EXT 2495.

Thoughtful & Caring - JM 42, HIV-, seeks A/L 35-49 for brainy LTR. Film, theatre, food, travel, cycling rambling walks. Versatile sexplay with kissing, gazing. EXT 2496.

Wanted: HIV+ Chested Cuddler - WM 43, 5'7", 148# seeks relationship oriented guy 35-50, willing to compromise. Enjoy theatre, nature, quiet evenings at home. HIV-, N/D, safe only. EXT 2497.

Looking for the Right Dad - Young Black/Latin boy 27, 6', 185#, fit who likes to have his dick sucked and then fucked slowly and nicely up his tight butt is looking for masculine White/Black dad over 50, in shape, with big dick, able to keep it hard all the way and use it well. EXT 2498.

Looking for that Special One - G8M 34, 6', hairy, 195#, wants that special top to spend quiet evenings together, movies, walks along the beach watching the sun set, and growing together. I look forward to hearing from you. EXT 2499.

PHD seeks same/MD, ABDs OK - For talk, fun, & friendship & possible LTR. Any race, age 30-50, I'm 42, GWM attractive & sincere. EXT 2504.

Attention HIV+ Black Men - Check me out! You: masculine, over 5'9", over 160#, preferably an AA/NA,

Try This - GWM 33, 5'10", 165#, Interests: mild S/M, travel, meditation, affection, imagination, body & mind, possible LTR. EXT 2505.

Handsome 34y/o Versatile Bottom - Seeks same age or older mate. Me: very fit, HIV+, gym 6 days a week, 5'8", 152#, open to all possibilities w/ fit man who is affectionate, passionate & caring. EXT 2506.

Looking for More? - Romantic, 32, 5'10", 180#, attractive, hairy, hung, muscular, moustache, red (balding), green eyes, versatile, secure, sincere, creative, cuddler, asymptomatic HIV+, UB: very hairy, similar and height/weight proportionate. EXT 2507.

I Love top Wanted - Need dark hair, brown eyes, stache. Any age (18+), race or size. Bl/bl, 31, handsome, seeking boyfriend for fun times and romance. EXT 2508.

Meet Your Bro. - Looking for hunky GWM 35-50. Be well built, 5'9"6", solid, hung, versatile, independent but loving. Healthy HIV+ OK. I'm all of the above plus, successful, uncult, & more. Call and talk it over. EXT 2509.

Mexican - 37y/o, 5'4", seeks White male tops for fun or friendship or relationship. EXT 2550.

Please Have a Kind Place - Have a nice smile and a place in the country with a fireplace and a rocking chair. EXT 2512.

Football Players Build? - If you are, leave me a message. I'm 6', 175#, muscular and could be into you. EXT 2511.

Hot Chocolate - Masculine Black 6'4", 190# 30y/o, over-endowed. Seeks one capable man to hold me, love me, and never let me go. Prefer under 45, masculine, semi-muscular and romantic. EXT 2556.

Dominant Leo - Muscular build, GWM 38, 5'6", 130#, br/blz, HIV-, handsome & smooth, seeks similar mate to share the good life, romance, travel, financial security, and sexual fantasies. EXT 2557.

Handsome Hairy Guy Seeks Same - GWM, HIV-, Versatile. Me: 5'11", 170#, 39, ltn/Gm/Fr., aerobics, art, outdoors. You: 35-45, 6'+, proportional, content, very handsome. Us: N/S, camping, integrity, secure, masculine,

still only 98 cents per minute to respond to ads!

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BarTalk Personals

Still only 98 cents per minute to respond!

1-900-844-2227

Available only in the Bay Area on touch-tone phones.
You must be at least 18 y/o to call.

Irish-American Top - 44, friendly big guy, hairy, heavy, easygoing, wants Latino/Brasilliano masculine bottom, 25-40, HIV, good natured campanero in my arms. EXT 2551.

Calling HIV+ Bottoms - Me: 39, muscular, moustache, 5'9", 170#, butch, needs service. You: any race, round, smooth, muscular butt, under 35. Plus if into kissing, fr. active. I'm together - UB2. EXT 2549.

Handsome Nice Guy - GWM 28, brbl, stache, 5'10", 165#, honest, in-shape, masculine, sexy. Seeks good friend/fuckbuddy top for occasional hot sex, but who doesn't seek to get attached right now. I'm into staches, hairy bodies, in-shape, hung guys. Lets be friends and have hot wild sex together. N/S, N/D EXT 2585.

Married GWM Looking for Playmate - Handsome, 37, bl/bl, HIV+ bottom, seeks mature professional man 45+ for discreet daytime fuck sessions. I'm 5'8", 155#, w/ smooth gymtoned body. You be goodlooking, in-shape top. Dark hair or balding a plus. Lets meet and see what happens. EXT 2568.

Dad With 8" - Looking for hot Black or Mexican in Richmond-Vallejo area. Cum, lets explore. Would love regular hot times. You know what I'm offering. What are your specialties? EXT 2569.

Wrestlers and Boxers - You're wanted to battle in private gym. 5'8", 150#, very hairy top has mat, gear, gloves, and muscle to put you down! EXT 2570.

Hot Bear Wanted - This very handsome cub wants a very handsome bear top. I'm honest kind, romantic, hot & sexy, muscular & masculine. You be similar. N/S, N/D. EXT 2586.

Need Good Head - Attractive GBM, HIV- seeks Masculine GWM 55-65 who knows how to give good head & deepthroat. If you are good, you will love the loving I will give to you. Serious people only, no game playing people. EXT 2571.

Sonoma County - Inexperienced but very horny 27y/o GWM looking for masculine men. Prefer to meet in-shape tops in area. Under 30y/o only. Military and/or tattoos a huge plus! EXT 2572.

Cum Shots - Unbelievable, thirsty deepthroat ready for your challenge. You won't forget this. BJ from attractive 40s GWM 6', 165#, healthy HIV+. Am/pm ok. EXT 2573.

Uncut BM - 59y/o, HIV, 9"uc, wants submissive, deepthroating cum-freak, massuer. Older, hung, pro-sword-swallower a plus. Your looks unimportant. EXT 2574.

Expert Top 9" Cock - 50y/o GWM 6', 150#, br/bl, glasses, 9"cock, seeks White bottoms under 40, smooth bodied, who want to get fucked by an expert top. Into 3 ways also. EXT 2575.

A Few Good Men - GWM wrestler-boxer, 5'10", 175#, hairy chest, all styles, rough to erotic fantasy. Seeks N. Calif. men for matches, networking. EXT 2576.

Daytime Fuckbuddy - Hot, sexy, masculine, attractive bottom seeks hot, attractive, masculine very well hung top, with facial hair for well sexual lunchtime rendezvous. N/S, N/D EXT 2523.

Do You Have A Huge Cock? - This very attractive, hot sexy young stud with a very tight hole wants to learn how to take the big ones. Come on big guy, teach me how. Hairy or facial hair, N/S are a plus. EXT 2479.

Aggressive Dominant Top - WM hung big, 5'11", gym body, needs in-shape WM w/ hairy bubble butt to eat & fuck. EXT 2611.

Teddybear Dad Seeks Bottom Son-Ass message, light spanking. Me: Attractive GWM 44, 6'5", 280#, football player's build, br.

moustache, hairy chest & stomach. You: attractive GWM 21-35, slim, smooth, nice buns, honest & sincere, relationship oriented. EXT 2613.

Black Male Wanted - By attractive GWM 25, blonde, 5'8", physically fit, romantic & HIV- You: top. Me: bottom. Under 35 & masculine please. EXT 2612.

Wanted - Well built, beefy masculine guy to tongue-fuck my muscular round bubble butt. 39y/o beefy, muscular WM with nice chest & big muscular legs. EXT 2614.

Message Exchanged - Hot guy likes to exchange sexual-safe massage. Average goodlooking, nice legs, sensitive, sexual. Redwood City area only. EXT 2615.

Oakland Phallic Worship Buddy - Wanted - It's late nite, we're both into getting fucked up (share costs 50/50). Want to be naked with another guy but not ready for fuck/suck sex. Prefer just talking dirty & watching each other jfo. Late nite only, my place. EXT 2616.

Hung Old Black Top - Needs mature, experienced, non-bearded BB bottoms for hot, brief, exciting East Bay sessions. Please be free of busy schedules & "boyfriends". Many bonuses for compatible men. Sincerity, discretion, & honesty guaranteed & expected in return. Lets enjoy each other soon. Thanks. EXT 2617.

Looking for Black Top - Who wants to be lifted to the Caribbean for a 2 wk vacation by a kinky bottom GWM 48y/o, 5'10", 190#. EXT 2618.

Hardon? Horny? - Warm mouth & wet tongue willingly work your cock/balls. I'm friendly mature bald h/wt prop BIWMW. looking for suckbuddy friends, any age, color, be HIV- like me. EXT 2619.

E. Bay Bottom BM - Look Latin, 6'2", fit, 40s, seek young Asian, Latin, Black male for sexual pleasures. EXT 2620.

Daytime fuckbuddy wanted - Gdkg, healthy, musc. GWM 35 w/ hot firm butt wants regular plowing from tall, hairy, well-built top. I'm 5'9", 160#, bl/bl, some body hair. You must be under 40, in-shape, & looking for daytime fun. Not looking for relationship. If plowing a hot hairy butt gets you hard, lets talk. EXT 2621.

Hot Italian Cock sucker - Available days and evenings. Seeks hot men to drain on regular basis. Castro location. Call for description. Let me be your cocksucking slave! EXT 2622.

Big Pecs or Musc. Bubble Butt Wanted - Beefy well built 38y/o WM with big musc. legs, round bubble butt, seeks nipples or big pecs to suck on and/or a big round musc. bubble butt to eat out. Or would you like to eat my big round musc. bubble butt? EXT 2623.

Husky Latin Romantic - Mid 30s, 350#, dark eyes & crew cut, seeking slim younger GWM. Southern Alameda County, muscled a plus. Lets have a glass of wine in the hot tub & see what comes up! EXT 2624.

Bi Brother, Young Son - married with girlfriend, or just cute and fun, under 30, shy ok? Lets talk, do massage, before we play. For Euro-type professional guy, masculine, 40s, bearded & Bi. EXT 2626.

In Shape WM - 5'11", 8", has a hungry tongue for well built WM w/ big firm hairy bubble butt. EXT 2627.

Personal Services for Asians - Massage, lick & nibble on your nipples, suck your cock, poke my tongue between your buns. Be youngish, h/wt proportionate, have a smooth body & relax to be serviced by GWM. EXT 2637.

Remember to Play Safe!

FETISHES

Hot Bear Wanted - This very handsome cub wants a very handsome bear top. I'm honest kind, romantic, hot & sexy, muscular & masculine. You be similar. N/S, N/D. EXT 2586.

Butt Massage & Light Spanking - I want to look at, touch, squeeze, massage, tickle & probe your



beautiful buns. Light spanking will stimulate nerve endings you never knew you had. Then on your knees for a long safe ride. Me: attr. GWM 44, 6'5", 280#, football player's build. You: attr. GWM 18-35, slim, smooth, nice buns. EXT 2446.

Hot Piss For Hours - For mature endurance oriented thirsty pevers only. Drain my big hard hose. No novices. EXT 2452.

Masculine Bottom Boy - 5'6", 130#, handsome, in-shape. Seeks to worship masculine, dominant dad/master, 25-45, in-shape. Boy needs training and/or limits expanded in spanking, flogging, TT, BD, light SM, WS. Experience, technique is important. EXT 2454.

Get Spanked by Big Brother - Are you 18-35, with a nice smooth butt? Cute, clean-shaven beards 90%, 37, 210#, wants to pull down your shorts, radden your cheeks, latex fingerfuck your horny bubble, and jerk you off. (South Bay guys please call as well.) EXT 2455.

Trim BIWM 34 - I will order you to strip naked and make you do what I tell you. You are under 38, slender and masculine. EXT 2457.

Dildos - GBM, 40y/o, 240#, endowed. Seeks fat, stocky, heavy-set men who enjoy long sessions of mutual dildo action. Lets open our butts. EXT 2466.

WS Top Wanted - By cute, young, thirsty South Bay boy. I'm in my tub waiting for you to walk in and

feed me all night. Inexperienced OK, GLM & GBM a plus. EXT 2474.

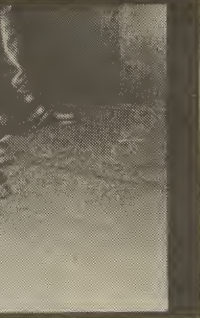
Flogged Boy Wanted - Is there a boy ready to be transferred in chains to my sonoma county hideaway, then hung naked by the wrists and flogged? I am Christian cleric, older, experienced, respectable, strong. EXT 2476.

BI Man Pig - Goodlooking BB 38y/o, seeks experienced top who likes to train this masculine bottom for sleazy sex. Must be tall. EXT 2540.

GWM 40 wants to jfo w/ men in suits or khakis. Horny businessmen of all types call now! Suspenders or belt required. Tie optional. UB 30+ y/o. EXT 2542.

Leather Daddy Wanted - Hot butch daddies boy is looking for hot daddy type. I'm a bottom, also like BD and WS. Not into heavy scenes or domination. I'm attractive, honest, muscular, 28. You are attractive, in-shape, hung, trustworthy, w/ stache or beard. N/S EXT 2587.

Love Water Sports - GWM under 35 looking for 25-40y/o water



sports minded men for lots of nasty fun. EXT 2577.

Sexy Feet & Hands? - If you have, leave me a message. I'm 6', 175#, muscular and could be into you. EXT 2520.

Stud Butt-Hole Licker - Muscular jock w/ rimseat looking for a stud who likes his bubble worshipped by hot tongue. EXT 2578.

Raunchy Sleaze-Men - My fantasy is to have unwashed guys in stained jockeyshorts & filthy jeans make me swap clothes with you, lick your sweaty armpits, balls & ripe asshole clean & maybe plug my butt. I'm 38y/o, 5'10", in-shape, 30" waist. You're 20-40, similar build. White or Latin preferred. EXT 2579.

Butt Fetish - When I see hunks on the street I want to bend over & kiss their butts. Unfortunately, the consequences of my doing so would be dire. Help me & I'll try to help you. It's safe, though perhaps not sane. Handsome, hunky, HIV- only Please. EXT 2580.

Latex Fetish - I'm 24y/o, blonde, very handsome, clean, 8'". I'm looking for a nice gentleman (older ok) who would like to dress me up in various latex clothing and then play with me. Curious novice welcome. EXT 2581.

Black Masculine Man - Seeks hungry FFB for long hot sessions. Your hole must be open up for my medium size hands and my 8" cock. Toys a plus, videos, hot safe fun, lets play. EXT 2582.

Seeking Huge Nipples - I'm in search of muscular guy w/ huge nipples, 1" or larger to worship. I'm 36, muscular, honest & sincere. EXT 2628.

Hot Ass FFB - Fit 58y/o, 5'11", 170#, beard, tats, rings, deepthroat, seeks topstiff who appreciates LL, grey, BD, control, orchestration. Us: strong personality. Any age, race. EXT 2629.

Slave Wanted - To serve attractive GWM, 70, 5'8", 160#, HIV-, master. You are trim, goodlooking, 18-45, HIV-, and prefer serving on ongoing basis a more mature master. I will accept no less than full obedience/servitude. EXT 2631.

COUPLES

Hot Versatile Bottom Wants to Play w/ Hot Couple - 5'9", 165#, 28y/o, muscular, masculine. ISO hot couple that is masculine and wants to experiment with hot guy. Staches/beards, N/S, N/D are pluses. EXT 2639.

OTHER

GWM 50y/o Looking for GWF Doctor - I'm looking for GWF Doctor who would love to spend time giving me an examination & I would like to have a sex therapy session as well. EXT 2546.

Sunbather - GWM 6'2", 180#, 40y/o, hairy, looking for private yard or sundeck for nude sunbathing. EXT 2547.

Bartender Expertise - Teach me how to use my AT&T Paradyme Dataport Modern (Macintosh), and I'll professionally design your landscape. Berkeley. EXT 2583.

Need A Houseboy? - Would like to move to SF, but need home while I look for work and apartment. I will work for you and treat you well. EXT 2584.

Need a Workout Partner? - I can provide instruction, motivation, training partner in exchange for transportation to and from Worlds Gym (Dehoro & 16th). Prefer early to mid afternoon start. EXT 2632.

Travel Companion Wanted - to share with GWM 33, HIV+, for road tripping summer fun. Very low budget pick-up truck type adventures. Nat'l parks. EXT 2633.

Use Rubbers! Protect Yourself and Protect Others!

Free!!! BarTalk personals

Deadline for ads is 5:00p.m. Thursdays for the following Thursday's issue. New ads will be published in the following Thursday's issue and will run for 3 consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information and details on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ads.

SELECT A CATEGORY:

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M-M

W-W

FETISHES

COUPLES

SEEKING ADVENTURE:

M-M

W-W

OTHER

PARTING GLANCES

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still only 98 cents per minute to respond to ads!

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this

FRIDAY 22

About Face

A new play about lesbian, gay, and bisexual Asian Pacific Islander sexuality and identity in the world of HIV. \$10. 8:30pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Aileen Wuornos

The Selling of a Serial Killer. Documentary about the lesbian part-time sex worker who confessed to shooting seven straight men in Florida, and the subsequent race to grab the rights to her story. Thru 4/28. \$6. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th at Valencia. 863-1087.

A...My Name is Alice

Revue of wild comedic sketches about contemporary women. \$12-21. 7:30pm. Thru 5/14. Willows Theatre, Willows Shopping Center, 1975 Diamond Blvd., Concord. (510) 798-BASS.

Biron

Color photos of eccentric architect/musician AON, whose legal name is Architecture of Noise. Thru 5/20. Glendon Sushi Bar, 538 Valencia.

Breath

Theatre dance collision based on short Samuel Beckett works. \$12. 8pm. Thru 4/24. The Y Theater, 220 Golden Gate. 974-4391.

Cancer

Bodies: Women Speaking the Unspeakable. Play based on the book *Cancer in Two Voices*, about a lesbian couple dealing with their illness. \$12-20. 8pm. Thru 5/7. Five Corners Theatre, Petaluma. (707) 545-9806.

Desire

Women's dance party, with loungey spaces, pool rooms, and lotsa wimmin. DJs Michelle Mattos & Jacqueline. \$8. 8pm-4am. Club DV8, 55 Natoma. 703-7141.

Distant Fires

Kevin Heelan's intense drama about race relations. Black and white men fight for a job while a riot burns in the distance. \$10-14. 8pm. Sun. at 2pm. Thru 4/23. Actors Theatre, 533 Sutter. 296-9179.

The Dyke and the Porn Star

Bayla Travis' hit two-woman play about love, loyalty and lasciviousness. Can a lesbian romance have a happy ending? \$8-12. 8:30pm. Thru 4/30. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 641-0235.

Early Bach & Schutz

Favorite cantatas, with choirs, strings, cornettos and sackbuts. (What's a sackbutt?) Pre-concert lecture by Dr. John Butt

(who might be able to explain). \$16-32. 8pm. Thru Sunday. Calvary Presbyterian Church, Fillmore & Jackson. 435-5235.

High Strung Quartet

Evan Bridenstine's romantic comedy written in the classic tradition with a distinctly contemporary '90s twist - three men and one woman are involved in a romantic triangle for four. \$12-14. 8pm. Thru 5/15. Bannam Place Theatre. 206-0363.

Holier Than Thou

Flynn, Deena Davenport & others star in a devilish satire play based on Jack Chick's Christian comics, including the classic homo goes to hell episode. \$8. 8:30pm. Thru 4/23. Bernice Street Playhouse, 21 Bernice St. near 12th & Harrison. 863-5946

missed.
(sigh)
gone.

An exciting jolt of testosterone-fueled drama, *K2* is a gripping play about two men trapped on a mountain ledge. If that bonding experience weren't enough, the play's real source of interest is also the set: a slab of a mountain. \$10-12. 8pm. Thru 5/8. Phoenix Theatre, 301 8th St. at Folsom. 621-4423.

For more earthbound artistry with higher consciousness, see *Sunken Cathedrals*, a magical combination of dance, sound, images and light. Choreographer Colleen Mulvihill and composer J.A. Deane invoke a world both both spectral and primitive in a dance which premiered in Hong Kong. \$8-10. 8:30pm. April 21-23 and 28-30 at Dancers' Group/Footwork, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

I Hate Hamlet

Paul Rudnick's hilarious play about a TV actor who gets acting advice from a ghost of John Barrymore. \$10. 8pm. Sun. at 3pm. Thru May 7. Next Stage Theatre, 1668 Bush at Gough. 771-2506.

Karen Ripley & Suzy Berger

Two funny sapphic sisters for the price of one. \$10. 10pm. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

Kiki & Herb

The Farewell Tour (yeah, sure) of Justin Bond's most joyously obnoxious character, a has-been cabaret drunk who barely keeps the piano up. Kenny Mellman tinkles on the ivories. A fun must-see. 11pm. Fridays Thru 5/19. Eichelberger's, 17th at Florida. 863-4177.



Arthur Tress (WED.)

Studio, 185 6th at Howard. 974-1167.

Light Up the Sky

American Conservatory Theatre's production of Moss Hart's witty satire of Broadway egos, opening night jitters and vicious critics. \$14-38. 8pm. Sat. & Wed. mats. at 2pm. Sun. at 3pm. Thru 5/8. Marines Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter at Mason. 749-2ACT.

Myron, A Fairy Tale

In *Black and White* Michael Kearns' modern update of the romantic comedy *Cyrano*, with an interracial gay couple. \$12. 8pm. Thru 4/24. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

Pilobolus

Innovative dance company known for its handsome (and occasionally nude) dancers, unique choreography and magical stage designs. \$22-28. 8pm. Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason. (510) 762-BASS.

presents thought-provoking work addressing racism in the gay community, portraits of stereotypes, and moving personal testimonies about gay and African-American identity issues. Thru 4/23. \$10-\$12. 8pm. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-2700.

Rope

Patrick Hamilton's play (which Hitchcock filmed) about two British University students who nihilistically kill a classmate for the thrill. \$18-22. 8pm. Sun. at 3pm. Thru 5/29. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 346-7469.

Senel Paz

Cuban writer reads from "El Lobo, el Bosque y el Hombre Nuevo," his story about a friendship between a gay man and a Communist youth, which was the basis for the film *Fresa y Chocolate*. A discussion on the social and political situation of Cuban gays follows. 7pm. The Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St. Audre Lorde Room. 995-4678.

The Sensational Sin Sisters

Doug Holsclaw's comedy in "queenspeak," about two close friends whose camp-fest becomes a battle of wits. \$12-18. 8pm. Thru 4/23. Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Seven Brides

For Seven Brothers. Lighthearted musical about seven young bucks looking to get hitched. \$15-18. Thru 5/1. San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 600 N. Delaware, San Mateo. 579-5568.

Sight Unseen

Donald Margulies' Obie-winning play about an artist whose fame brings sales before he begins his paintings. \$20-32. 8pm. Sun. at 2 & 7pm. Thru 5/27. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison at Shattuck, Berkeley. (510) 845-4700.

Timothy Findley

Acclaimed Canadian novelist reads from his latest, *Headhunters*, about mental patients, spirits, and sex salons in a futuristic Toronto (reviewed in this issue). 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Tricks

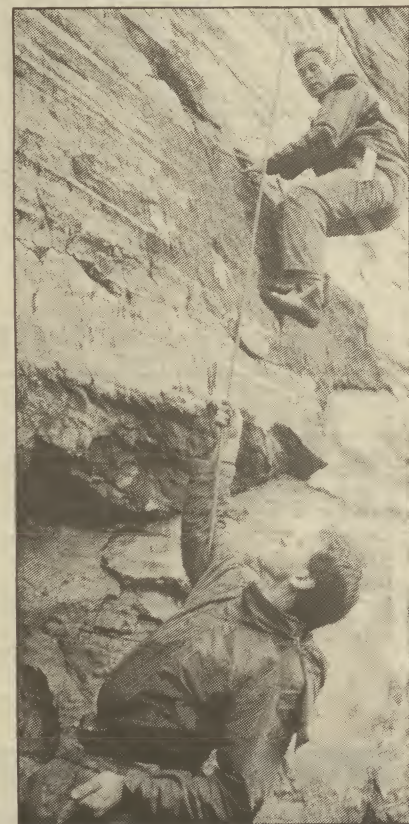
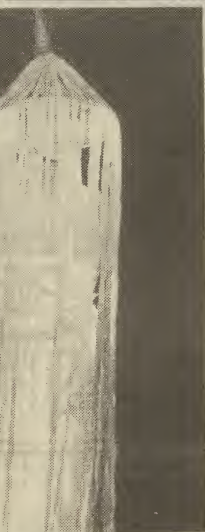
Gay dating variety show from New York. 10pm. Cable Channel 53.

Two Trains Running

August Wilson's acclaimed Tony-nominated play about the black regulars of a Pittsburgh diner set for demolition. \$18-22. 8pm. Thru 5/22. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter. 474-8800.

Way Out West

Musical comedy based on the classic Mae West-W.C. Fields movie *My Little*



Last Exit to Brooklyn

Play based on the Hubert Selby seamy book, with the author and others reading stuff. \$12-20. 8pm. Thru 5/21. Bindlestiff

May 1 at Cowell Theatre. (510) 762-BASS.

Pomo Afro Homos

Estimated three-member performance group

we

Chickadee, with Ann Drogynous, Mark Sargent, Donna Sachet and others. \$15. 8pm. Sun. at 7pm. Thru May 1. Artful Circle Theatre, 47 Waller. 626-5455.

SATURDAY 23

Daniel Hill

Exhibit of vivid, colorful paintings and drawings in a unique combination of abstract and figurative forms. Thru 4/30. John Pence Gallery, 750 Post. 441-1138.

Eagles

The Lab presents an installation by Rigo 94, a portrait of the landscape using contemporary traffic signs from Portugal and California. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Lab Gallery, 1807 Divisadero St. Thru April 30. 346-4063.

Flop the Butch

A night of readings and poetry stuff from Harriet Poon, Lynn Flipper, Odeya, Margo Lyan and others. \$5. Butches in femme drag get in free. 7 & 9pm. Red Dora's Bearded Lady, 485 14th at Guerrero.

Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin

Ex-Black Panther, who once hijacked a plane to Cuba, will speak on the African-American civil rights movement. \$5. 8pm. SF Community Music Center, 544 Capp at 20th. 641-9418.



Gay Comedy Night

Maria Falzone, Hank Donat, Lisa Geduldig. \$10. 10pm. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

Inside/Out

Gay and lesbian TV. Noon. Cable Channel 47.

Johnny Lonely's

Unhappy Hour. Crown prince of self-pity croons blues tunes wallowing in romantic misery, including the ballad, "Why'd You Change Your Sex?" \$7-10. 10:30pm. Sat. Thru April. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia near 22nd. 641-0235.

Jose Maro Alvarado

New paintings of male nudes. Thru 4/30. Vorpel Gallery, 393 Grove St. 397-9200.

Late Nite

With Joan Jett Blakk. Smart talk with the mostest hostess. Tonight's guests: Diviana Ingravallo, Gerard Koskovich, Babette, Minnie Pearl Necklace. \$6. Midnight. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

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Nine Inch Thrash'n Catholic yer eart \$18-50. Warfield. 772.

Pat Bond Ceremon standing Adleman and Nan Gilbert. John's Church, Ave, Be

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BAY AREA REPORTER BAZAAR

Mr. Marcus

Mr. SF Leather and Ms. Uranus Pageant: Simply Fabulous

If a yardstick exists to measure the quality and success of a leather contest, the Mr. San Francisco Leather competition last Saturday night at the California Club would not only meet, but exceed, the standard. A standing-room only crowd watched the results of months of preparation by dedicated volunteers as six great leathermen competed for what is quite possibly the country's most watched leather title before the biggie in Chicago next month.

The San Francisco Eagle's contestant, Mike Lias, was the winner, picked by judges Patrick Batt, Jenne 'Blade, Jack Goodall, Graylin Thornton and Art Tomaszewski, with a little input from me. The first runner-up was Greg Pennington, Mr. Watering Hole Leather, and the second runner-up was the Jackhammer's Robert Rozendal.

In a "first" for this competition, a Brotherhood Award, voted on by the contestants themselves was given to Mr. Headquarters St. Clair Adams - and, please, it's not a Ms. Congeniality thing but, rather, the contestant who was the most helpful with his fellow aspirants throughout the contest.

As the master of ceremonies, Frank Nowicki did an excellent job and the timing was perfect throughout, not to mention the lighting, sets, sound and entertainment. The much admired Sharon McNight came over from across town where she was doing a gig to perform the closing number just before the winners were announced; her vibrant chords and pleasant banter left the audience enthralled and grateful.



Mike Lias, sponsored by the SF-Eagle, won the Mr. Leather of San Francisco contest last Saturday night, April 16 at the California Club. He will represent the city at the International Mr. Leather Contest in Chicago on Memorial Day weekend.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

Earlier, Mr. Lurch unleashed his refreshing and scathing dialogue on a receptive audience and, before his

14-minutes were over, he had us in stitches, rolling in the aisles and stomping on the floor - not to mention prolonged applause at least three times. Lurch earned the "leatherman's comedian" accolade and I daresay, he is on the way to being a genuine star. The opening number, created especially for the show by former Dyke Daddy, Skeeter Wildman, had local and visiting leather people in a tizzy. Seasoned fans of the Skeeter Dancers couldn't wait to see what outrageousness was in store for them. They were not disappointed. Mr. San Jose Leather, Jeff Tucker, performed the fantasy that quite possibly won him his title - a Mickey Mouse fantasy you'll never see on the Disney Channel. Another big ovation!

There are so many people to thank for the success of this year's competition. The show, the contestants, and all the volunteers who were proud to be a part of it, deserve a standing ovation for their efforts. That includes leather title-holders from around the country, including visitors from Australia, London, Germany, and even Sweden. And congratulations to Jerry Roberts, winner of the Peter Austin Memorial Award, given annually to the person who best personifies



Mr. and Ms. SF Leather of San Francisco Mike Lias and Diana Hardick received a thunderous ovation at the contest and look great together as well.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

Mr. Marcus



Mr. SF Leather winners (l to r): Greg Pennington, (Mr. Watering hole), 1st runner-up, Mr. SF Leather Mike Lias, and 2nd runner-up Robert Rozendal applauded by the audience at the contest last Saturday night.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

leather pride in our community. Quite frankly, it was a flawless night. Now, onward to Chicago! Thanks Audrey, Lenny, Steve, Jerry, Jamie, Andy, Greg, Kimo's Bar, the Defenders and Phoenix UC and Joy Shulenberg. Great!



Earlier in the week, Thursday, seven studly dudes jumped into the bare chest competition at the Eagle. Mr. Portland Leather, Paul Smith, Mr. DC-Eagle Joel Gregoria, and Mr. Australia Drummer '91, Kevin Jackson, faced the group and when it was over, a Columbia-born dude, Alex Saldarriaga, took the Sept. '95 spot with handsome Jim Donahue the runner-up. Only three more spots to fill and they'll be looking for Mr. October next Thursday, April 28.

Friday, the meet and greet for contestants and judges at the Jackhammer, sponsor of last year's winner Greg Byfield, a big crowd was on hand with tourists and locals alike. They sure give good parties for working men at the Jackhammer!

After judging the Fifth Annual Ms. Uranus Pageant at the End Up last Sunday, I finally found out what "camp drag" is all about! And I can name about 26 empresses (not just in SF) who should take a long, hard look at this outrageous event if they're not clear on the concept, which, as any fool can plainly see, is the case. Some Mr. Drummer contestants could learn a few things about S/M here, even if



Sharon McNight wowed the crowd at the Mr. Leather of SF Contest last Saturday night, April 16.

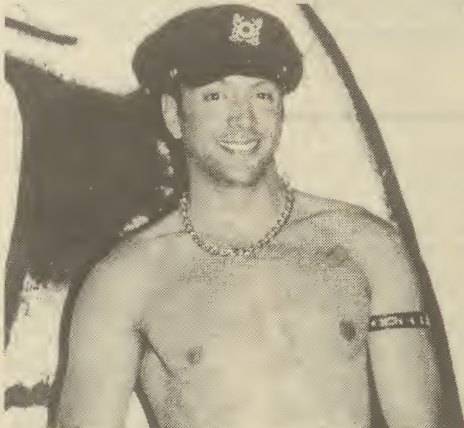
(Photo: Mr. Marcus)

this is drag. There was more S/M on that stage than I've seen in any leather contest — and it was frightfully realistic, too.

While the contestants were out to win, the Ms. Uranus contest judges (myself, Diet Popstute and Ingrid Nelson) were obliged to pick last place loser (booing is encouraged!), third runner-up and a winner. Interspersed with exotic male and intricate face makeup and gender-fuck drag, the contestants had to get onstage as best they could (no stairs), and do a talent number (the tackier, the better).

Spectators brought raincoats, sheets of plastic and blankets to keep from getting doused with whatever the "girls" spewed out. There was

(Continued on next page)



Mr. September on the 1995 Bare Chest Contest, Alex Saldarriaga last Thursday, April 14. They'll be picking Mr. October on Thursday, April 28.

(Photo: Mr. Marcus)



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Mr. Marcus

(Continued from previous page)
a lot of blood and other liquids (events included a castration, abortion, water-sports cocktails) and then the contestants leaped off the stage into the arms of spectators. Egad!

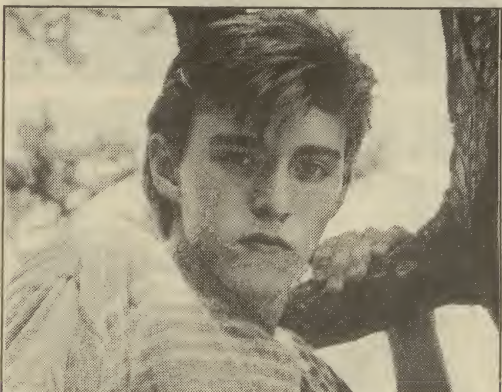
Throughout, Ggreg (Deborah) Taylor and Jerome Caja kept the dialogue dirty and the stage clean as Ggreg threw himself on the floor in a black monk's robe and literally became a human mop to clear away the blood, piss, debris and tassels left there. It was too much for TV, but Lavender Lounge and Odyssey Magazine lenses were not without work. The World Wrestling Federation could learn a few things from

Ms. Uranus: the arguments that erupted saw wigs flying, people rolling around on the floor, wrestling and cursing. It had the audience in stitches.

It was just an outrageous event. In the end, the last place loser was David Hockin as Midge — Barbie's best friend; the third runner-ups were Ivana and Crystal May, and Ms. Uranus V is Trauma Flintstone. May she have a raucous year and I know she will. Great, great fun! ▼

Correction:

Last week's leather column featured a photo of Bob Fautt inadvertently credited to Mr. Marcus. The photo was taken by Chip Hronich.



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Leather to Live By

Thursday, April 21: This is the third night of the Eagle's 13th anniversary celebration with entertainment and a faaabolous buffet as always. They gave out pins Tuesday night and T-shirts last night, and shame on you if you didn't get one! Congratulations to the Eagle and best wishes for continued success.

Saturday, April 23: SM-MILE, the Dore Alley and Folsom St. Fair people, are having a beer/soda bust at the Lone Star today from 1500 to 1900 for just \$6. Support the world's biggest fair organization!

The 15 Association's play party is tonight. You know the rules, and you need an invite for yourself and a partner, so call 673-0542 for location and pay your \$10 fee.

Sunday, April 24: The Knights of Malta host the beer/soda bust at the Eagle this afternoon from 1500 to 1800 for \$8 — food and cruising galore. Tricks not guaranteed, but lay your traps and hope for the best!

If you want to join the newly formed Bears of San Francisco, be at The Hole in the Wall for a "Getting to Know You" party from 1500 to 1900. Can't make it? Write SF Bears, 2261 Market St., Box 266, SF, CA 94114.

Thursday, April 28: Searching for Mr. October 1995 on the bare chest calendar at the Eagle tonight at 2200. Win \$100. Fame. All for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Saturday, April 30: Second annual Mr. Silver Fox Contest at the SF-Eagle tonight starting at 2000. \$5 beer/soda bust until 2300. Shilo Unruh, who won it last year, passes into dowager-ship tonight. Applications available at the bar.

Constantines 500 Overnighter to Reno leaves today. \$50 for bikes/cars, with lodging, barbecue, great riding or a shared van for carless dudes. Call Gary at 922-8969 or Dale at 285-1965 for details and departure site.

Mr. SF Furry Man and The Bear present a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund from 1800 to 2200, with the Waterproof Souls, the Cooties, the fabulous Lurch and Danny Williams. Only \$6 for the beer/soda bust and a 50/50 raffle. Show begins at 1900 — not to be missed!

Sunday, May 1: Pegasus MOC day ride that's also a train ride departs from Castro Station today at 0930. Bring lunch money (\$6) and train fee (\$5) for a scenic ride to Niles Canyon and a ride

on the NC Railroad. For more info, call Jay Hice at (415) 861-2872.

Run don't walk to the Cal Eagles MC's annual Cinco de Mayo beer/soda bust at the Eagle from 1500 to 1800. \$8 with delicious Mexican food donated by Leticia Luna's Line Up. Always a great party by the Cal Eagles!

Wednesday, May 4: Selecting Mr. July on the 1995 Great Buns Calendar at the Watering Hole beginning at 2130. Win \$75 and more tricks than you can handle.

Weekend, May 7-8: Cal Eagles MC weekend trip to Monterey Bay. Only \$55 for all the amenities and lodging. Leaving from The Bear on Castro at 0930. Call (415) 267-0560 for more information.

Sunday, May 8: Dyke Daddy Jo Leroux's Motorcycle-A-Thon all day today. For details and to register, call (415) 826-0677 or the pager at (415) 679-0323.

Planning to attend International Mr. Leather in Chicago on Memorial Day Weekend? Matthew Hudson at Travel Trends, 431 Castro, (415) 558-6922, has a great package deal for you. As of April 15, he had 11 seats left. Don't be left out! Call Matthew today! ▼

City Dining

Ivy's Cafe Blends Warm Atmosphere, Impressive Menu

Tasteful Retreat

by Lee Robbins

I was driven to Ivy's Cafe more or less out of curiosity. I'd heard this popular restaurant described variously as both "gay and very good" and "not so gay and only moderately good."

My first impressions were formed by the cafe's interior, which is quite nice. It's a light, open space, with walls painted a subtle off-white color, which is accentuated by white tablecloths and room dividers. Brass railings divide the two rooms of the cafe into several comfortable spaces surrounded by tie-dyed fabrics in muted colors. Large windows reveal the passing crowd on Gough Street. The decor is attractive, understated. And, thankfully, the lighting, while subtle, is well dispersed. In other words, the menu is readable.

While contemplating the many interesting things on Ivy's menu, we sampled two house wines, a merlot and a cabernet. The merlot was respectable, but not exciting. Typically, merlots possess a strong nose and peppery bite, but this was a much quieter red. The cabernet was full-bodied and delicious.

We chose two appetizers, smoked prawns and scallops (\$6.95) and a mixed green salad (\$5.00). I found the prawns and scallops came with "roasted tomato sauce and lime cream." The prawns proved succulent, with a pleasing, mild smoky flavor. The scallops were fresh. Cooked in a style which could be likened to "al dente," the delicate flavor of the scallops created a pleasing contrast to the mild fresh tomato and lime sauce. The salad comin-gled nouveau California style "greens" with a good feta (blue cheese optional) and a striking citrus vinaigrette,

whose subtle sweetness, our waiter informed us, was achieved by a dash of tequila. The dressing made this simple mix of greens an excellent, worthwhile first course.

For our main courses we chose a **vegetarian pasta primavera** (\$12.95) and, in a move of strident political incorrectitude, a **veal chop**

amazement, the chef managed to interpret my confusing cooking instructions — "medium-well, medium-rare, sort of in between" — with impeccable accuracy.

The vegetarian pasta primavera was a lovely assemblage of dark pasta noodles mixed with bright green beans, rectangles of sweet red pepper, morsels of onion and mushroom and topped generously with finely grated cheese. Buried deep in the pasta were little artichoke hearts, tasty treasures dipped in a tangy dressing. The pasta itself possessed a fine, firm texture and a good flavor (perhaps whole wheat), but, there was surprisingly little sauce accompanying the dish; perhaps this is cuisine for the austere vegetarian.

An excellent **creme brulee** (\$4.50) and **strawberry rhubarb pie** (\$4.50) made excellent dessert choices. The creme brulee a special custard of the evening, was served with fresh blueberries nestled in the bottom and arrived at the table accompanied by a plate of delightfully crispy cookies. The strawberry rhubarb pie impressed with fresh berries and a sweet topping, but the crust was unexceptional. As an aficionado of this dessert — the contrast between sweet strawberries and tangy rhubarb is irresistible — I would've appreciated more of the tart plant under the good crumbs and sugar-crisp topping.

Ivy's is a delightful place to dine with a friend. We lingered comfortably over good coffee for more than an hour after completing our meal. For good food at a reasonable price, and attentive, knowledgeable service in an attractive atmosphere, Ivy's is the place to go. ▼

To my
amazement,
the chef
interpreted
my confusing
cooking
instructions
with
impeccable
accuracy.

(\$18.95). Generally I'm not fond of veal, which, in addition to creating arguments with friends, is somewhat bland and uninteresting. The exception, on occasion, is the chop. This big one arrived at our table looking nothing less than marvelous, thick, juicy and surrounded by four roasted potatoes. It was tastefully off-set by a spray of zesty green asparagus. Garnish was a sprig of watercress, with leaves so large we found it difficult to identify.

The chop tasted as good as it looked, delicately browned and crispy outside, tender and flavorful inside. To my

Ivy's
398 Hayes St.
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Theatre

Myron

(Continued from page 29)

manticism.

It seems director Kelly Hill opted to play down this romanticism in his staging of *Myron*, and I wish he hadn't. Kearns' script is poetry, and the language needs wings. During the scenes in which Rex is reading the letters, for example, I wished for some light on Myron, lying in his hospital bed. Poetry. I wished for less intrusive music.

George Felix Siris plays the title role, and the show belongs to him. Few actors can effectively handle poetry onstage, but Mr. Siris seems right at home — I'd love to see him do Shakespeare. He's a chameleon who makes his audiences gasp at his rapier-like bitchiness, and melt at a sudden flash of sweetness. Mr. Siris brings a great deal of dignity and strength to Myron's rage; he is holy, dear, and vulnerable in his delirium. In repose, he is an angel.

John Hogan is one of my favorite actors in the Bay Area; I've always enjoyed his performances. In the role of Rex, however, he falls oddly short: where Kearns' script calls for passion and fire, Mr. Hogan makes milder choices, and the result is confusing

when played against the language of love. There are moments when Myron and Rex connect on stage — and it's romantic, it's tender, but it's never hot, not even in the phone sex scene. Too frequently, I found myself longing for the dialogue to end so that Myron could take the stage with another scathing, sweet, or savage monologue.

Pepper Thompson turns in a charming performance as the well-meaning naïf whose literal loss for words sparks Myron's identity switch and the ensuing tale of mistaken love.

Taking on different identities for the purpose of eroticism is no new phenomenon; Kearns simply situates the event in our culture, and now we can take responsibility for it. So in the end, who loves whom? Why do we sometimes frantically become what we believe another would have us be to win their love? Are we that starved for affection, that insecure about our desires and desirability? *Myron* is important theater, speaking as it does to the issues of love, AIDS, self-loathing, and self-acceptance in our community. ▼

Myron: A Fairy Tale in Black and White
Josie's, through April 24
861-7933

Breaking the Mold

True Love

by Jennifer Fulton; Naiad, \$9.95

I admire writers who, after having found a safe and comfortable niche, take risks with their writing by experimenting with new forms or styles. Jennifer Fulton's first two Naiad novels, *Passion Bay* and *Saving Grace*, were well-written and entertaining. Had she written a third in the same style, I'm certain that I would have enjoyed it. But Fulton's latest novel, *True Love*, is miles away from the earlier idyllic romances. Fulton tells a dark and disturbing tale of friendship and betrayal, of love lost before it has a chance to begin. That may sound rather hackneyed, but her use of these themes is anything but trite. The writing is outstanding. Fulton uses humor wisely, and the early lightness of the narrative voice provides a stunning contrast to the sadness and resignation of that voice at the end of the novel.

Rosie Brooke is an actor for whom performance is a way of absolving guilt by erasing the self. She meets each week with a group of women who come together for laughs and intellectual stimulation. But each woman has a secret, or several, and as we learn about them, we learn a great deal about ourselves as well. Fulton creates characters that live on in the memory, and in the heart. *True Love* is an extraordinary novel. I could not put it down, and days later, I'm still thinking about it. You owe yourself this one. ▼

—Deborah Peifer

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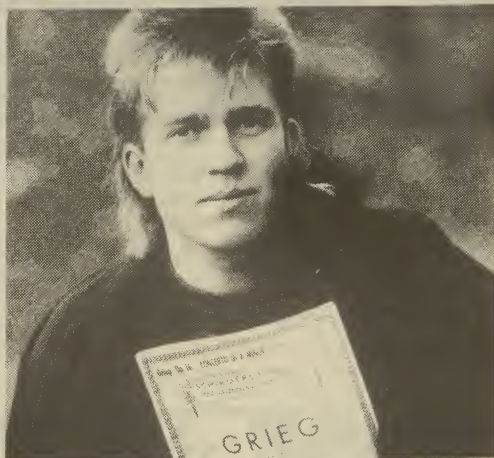
Music

Pianists

(Continued from page 34)

San Francisco Symphony debut, wherein he put the screws to Rachmaninoff's rather shopworn Third Piano Concerto (Opus 30).

His performance largely justified all the advance publicity. And those who've considered dismissing this concerto as just more fluff should hear Andsnes' interpretation first, for it breathes new life into what is generally considered bland fare. Rachmaninoff's Third Concerto is one of the most difficult in the standard repertoire — even the composer couldn't play the first movement cadenza; he fashioned an easier one for himself — requiring of the soloist not merely mammoth technique, but no small quantities of physical strength and poetic vision. Ove Andsnes gave a sufficiently romantic view of the work underneath all the fire, blistering passage-work and thundering climaxes. It all held together in his purview, no small feat for someone who's only been playing before the public for a few of his 24 years. He even played the original cadenza,



Leif Ove Andsnes: young, attractive and talented.

dispatching this frenetic cluster of ideas with virtuosic skill, wit and grace. The orchestra supplied pliant accompaniment under the baton of guest conductor Hugh Wolff.

Ove Andsnes can also be heard on a recently released Virgin Classics recording of works by Edvard Grieg, a 19th-century Norwegian composer whose keyboard music,

with the exception of the Piano Concerto in A minor, has largely been relegated to oblivion. Lyrical and intelligent this collection, which includes the aforementioned war-horse, in addition to Grieg's Six Lyric Pieces (Opus 68), is music to confirm the muses, not to mention auspicious and youthful talents. ▼

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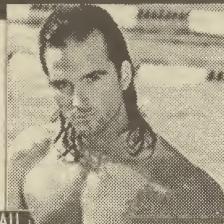
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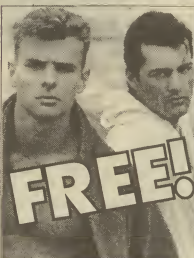


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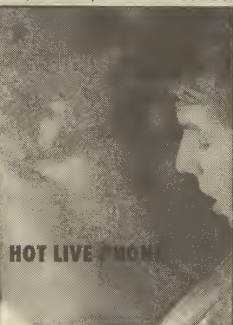
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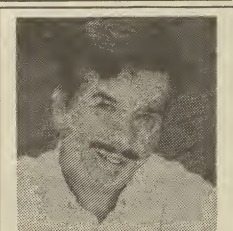
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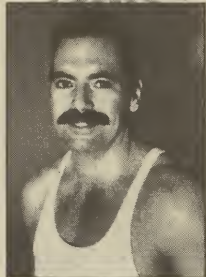
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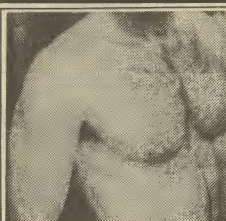
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■ Pain Relief
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■ Deep Tissue ■ Somatics
■ Neuromuscular Therapy

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STEVEN ARTHUR

\$50

LICENSED & CERTIFIED



MASSAGE

• Swedish
• Esalen
• Deep Tissue

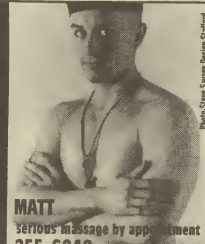
Nature, CMT
474-2740



TOUCH HEALS

Certified Massage
\$20/30 min., \$30/1 Hour,
\$45/1 1/2 Hrs.
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John

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MATT
serious massage by appointment
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For Men's Special Kneads
ASIAN MASSEUR
6'4", 175, Chuck 221-3477

Latin College Boy Massage
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Nude, Erotic & Swedish Massages
No Nonsense Affair
A Professional Man
For Your Body and Head
By A Handsome Man
6'1", 210 lbs., Blond/Blu
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24 HRS.
1st Timers Welcome

I Strive To Achieve EXCELLENCE

in life and my full-body
erotic massage is no exception!
I'm a very defined
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\$40 Kevin 864-1190

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X-CUTE BLOND

Smooth/Built/25/Tan/24 • 7/
"CIVILIZED MASSAGE"

Table ★ Warm CMT ★ Class. Music
Candlelight • Pro Service!!!

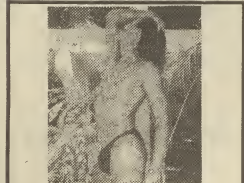


Sensual Massage
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Skilled Friendly CMT

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Alfredo 282-3313

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A RELAXING MASSAGE
by a handsome, masculine blond,
6', 190, beautifully nude
muscular body, summer tan.
Firm, Erotic Swedish Massage
Massage Lotion & Table, Hard to Beat It
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San Leandro-Hayward Area.
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24 Hours

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Sublime bodywork in private
mountaintop setting.
Convenient from GG Bridge
Christopher, 389-6709

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Guarantee Your Pleasure!
Relaxing, Arousing, Nude
Swedish Massage by Gdtkng
CMT. Table. Tim 824-7249

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Quote, Call pgr. # 280-1239
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Relaxing Sensual Nude
Swedish Massage by Gdtkng
Hairy-Chested 35 y/o, CMT
Table. Tim (415) 824-7249

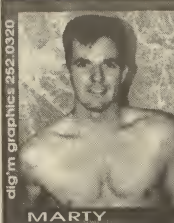


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HEALING MASSAGES

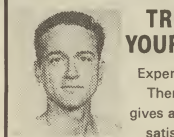
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& Van Ness location
\$50.
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massage. Warm room and table
in private home. Parking +
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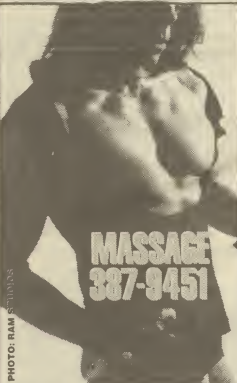


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10AM-11PM

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Hot Tub • Rebirthing • In/Out
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JAS DEWSNAP

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Castro location \$40 - 1 1/2 hours - Discount PWA's

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Swedish • Deep-Tissue
Sensual • Erotic
—Flex Rates—
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Wholesome, handsome Man, nice
hairy Chest, Built Nice & Tight, 6', 195
lbs., B/Builder, Blonde, Blue, Hunk. I of-
fer a nude complete full-body Swedish
Erotic Massage done with hot lotion.
In/\$50 Out/\$65

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24 hrs.

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Masterly Compleat Massage By Versatile, Experienced Oak CMT for Pleasure and Healing. Greg (510) 547-1364

COMPLETE RELEASE

Relax, Unwind, Enjoy . . .

By Butchy or Fred

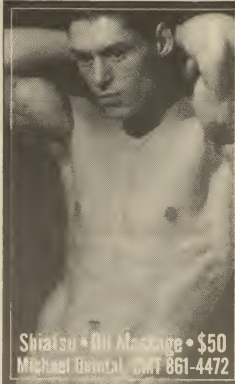
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- Relaxing
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Massage
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SENSUAL
LICENSED
MAN (415) 861-0967

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Deep, Relaxing, Sensual, Swedish/Esalen Massage by Strong, Experienced, Caring Hands
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90 min / \$55 • Castro Location • Parking

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Wholesomely Handsome, 33 6', 195 lbs., great tan body 1 1/2 hr. super massage in nude; Japan Center \$45/In \$60/Out 24 hours.

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MAN TO MAN

XXX EROTIC BODY RUB
ROD 35 190 6'2" 824-6590

\$25

Hot Massage In The Buff
SAN JOSE MAN2MAN

29 y/o, 5'10", 170#, Drk Bld, Bl, Handsome, (408) 237-0731-Out

Excellent Massage, Trim & Toned 35 y/o Full Body-Swedish-Sensual. Table, Warm Room, Music. \$30/1 1/2 to 2 hrs. Stan-CMT 641-8221

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Jim de Masseur 621-4517

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Massage • Erotic
Eves & Weekends
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Nice & Relaxed

A full-body Swedish massage will bring you bliss. Warm table, warm oil.

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certified, experienced

Sore, Tired Muscles? Stressed? Or just want to feel better? Massage can help. CMT combines styles for a great massage 8am-9pm Call Kevin (510) 450-0291

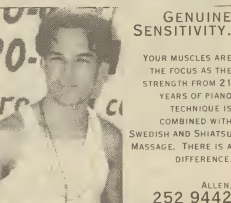
Swedish Hot Oil, Erotic PROSTATE & MORE

FULL BODY MASSAGE
Young, Blond, CMT
ROB 621-5016 \$60

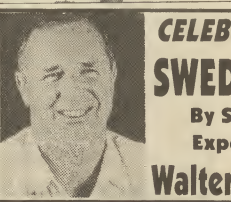
Very Cute, Boyish, 22 y/o blonde/blue/tan/smooth
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24 Hrs. 905-4548 LV# \$80/up

Hot Nude Relaxing Massage by handsome, 28; sexy, built & friendly. Jeff CMT 553-8804

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MARIN MASSAGE
Long-Haired, Slim Guy.
\$40/\$50 Andy (415) 461-4135



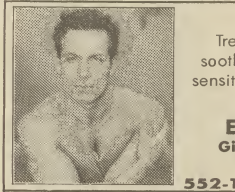
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YOUR MUSCLES ARE THE FOCUS AS THE STRENGTH FROM 21 YEARS OF PIANO TECHNIQUE IS COMBINED WITH SWEDISH AND SHIATSU MASSAGE. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE.
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By Strong, Caring and Experienced Masseur

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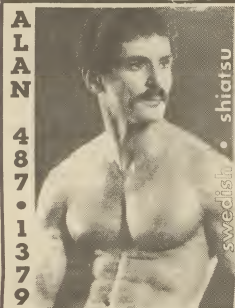


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Treat yourself to a strong yet soothing massage by a caring & sensitive professional in a warm & cozy environment.

ERIK GEORGE, CMT
Gift Certificates Available.
\$55 / 1 1/2 HR.

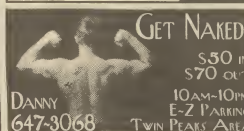
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San Jose — Swedish Massage \$30/hr. \$45/1 1/2 Hr. In-calls
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Handsone, 24, with a passionate touch for your unabashed pleasure. br/br/5'9"/150#/8'uncut Only \$50 in • \$60 out
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\$30 IN \$70 OUT
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In Walnut Creek, Goodlooking, Friendly, Italian Guy with strong touch. Older, married, welcome! 9AM-9PM
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Swedish, Deep Tissue
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An Ancient Tradition

- Highly Sensual, Sensitive & Nurturing
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Ahhh...

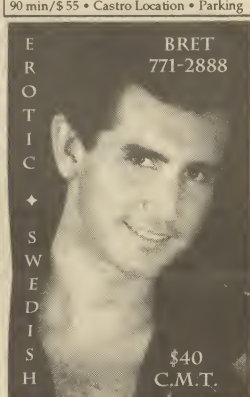
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• 1 1/2 hrs - \$45/\$60 •

Sensuous and Caring



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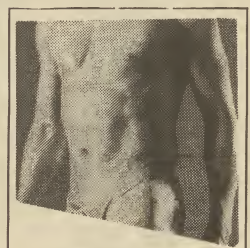


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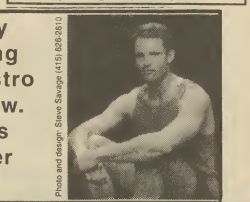
Nude mass by well built man. 42 Dwtwn Mark 398-2441 24hr

BEAR FACTS

Hairy Italian, Ex-Football jock rubs you the right way. Butch 621-4316. 24 Hrs. \$40 In/\$55 Out



**SWEDISH
MASSAGE
BY
GREAT BODY
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People and Personals

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Alex

\$50 in/\$60 out

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BODY MAGIC

With a nurturing, relaxing and
rejuvenating Full Body Massage



Jack Walder CMT
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Discount PWAs • Castro Location

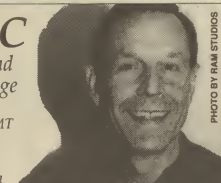


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Nude Mass by 6', Playful BB
Long Hair. 666-0661 E16

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ADVENTURESOME

Built tight, muscular
Blond man, 32, 6', 190lbs., Very
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Sensual massage in the buff.
\$45in/\$60out 24 hrs.

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Benefits of Therapeutic. Ecstasy of Erotic.
\$35/60min Castro District \$45/90min

Big Blond Man **Incredibly Powerful Hands** **Markus**
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CMT

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By Handsome, Clean-cut Guy.
Asian Clientele Welcome.
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Xtra-Good-Look Musc.
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Strong Sensitive Touch
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Quality Bodywork

Friendly, Professional
Nurturing, Strong and
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Enjoy Yourself More!



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Friendly, professional and at Castro/24th
with parking. My training is in Esalen, and
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Talented & Experienced

Masseur Accepting
Discriminating Clients
Who Seek High Quality Massage.

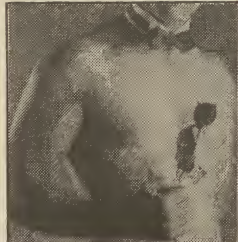
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San Bruno

Simply Superb



Integral Massage

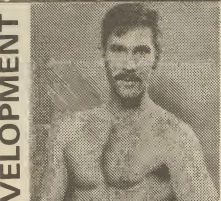
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Tight, Muscular Bod
Very Cute, Versatile. Jason
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Rugged Handsome Daddy
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Looking Man Makes Fantasies
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Top 9 Studpoker. All American.
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TALL HANDSOME
MASC. BODYBLDR.
HUNG LIKE YOU'D
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College jock with defined
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master into all aspects &
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\$100
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HOT TOP MAN

6', 160 Lbs., 40 Y/O

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Bondage to Buttpay Top.

Explore, Stocked Playroom

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Boy Avail. for 3-Way + Scenes.

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Sexy Boy w/Round Buns

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HORSEHUNG DUDE DIGS VIDEOS
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ARE YOU READY TO RIDE?

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MAKE IT HARD
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Sling, Toys, Rim-Seat

Handsomeness, 34, 6'4", 175

FF, TT, Scat.

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Extra Handsome, Clean-Cut

Dark Blond, Bl, 5'10", 170#

Robert Unch Look

San Jose - Will Travel

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FF, TT, Scat.

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Handsomeness, 34, 6'4", 175

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6' 175# 42c 29w Brn/Blu
Massage Included
Friendly/BayAreaTravel

9X6



Dan

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NO BULL. 12 PLUS FOR YOUR

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•••••Kory•773-9130•••••

CLEARLY DEFINITELY

6 ft., 185 lbs.
brown hair
blue eyes
smooth
ripped
sexy
tan

S.F.

THE BEST THE HOTTEST

good looking
masculine
clean-cut
friendly
great
legs
9x6

L.A.

BUCK (415) 280-0725

* Porno Star *

Eric Manchester

IN or OUT

24hrs - \$150 hr.

921-1844

9X6" HORSE HUNG
YOUNG
PUNK BOY
SMOOTH DANIEL
BLOND 267-6153



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Engineer Specialized to

Fully Service German, Italian

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Aldo (415) 303-3458

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PUNK BOY

dyed hair, slim, hot body

paper 245-4223

21 YR. BLN STUD

Slim Gd Lking, Hung

Boyish Looking Top

Easy To Talk With

\$60/Out Cedric

(510) 819-0410

Young Exhibitionist

Hairy, Hot, Hard

Robin 280-6812

Sexy Blond

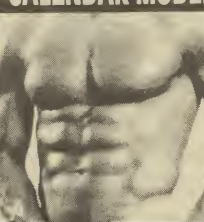
CALVIN KLEIN

Model 27 yrs. 9" thick

round buns, rock-solid

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COLT, PLAYGIRL,
CALENDAR MODEL



A REAL MAN

FOR MEN 35+ ONLY

ROCKLIN IS BACK!

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BLUE COLLAR

Good Looking, Const. Worker

6'4", 190 lbs., Good Shape

9 1/2 Inches Cut

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Out Only

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Itl, 5'8", 210 lbs, 30" waist

19" arms, 50" chest. Out only.

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Thick/Uncut Dutch Boy

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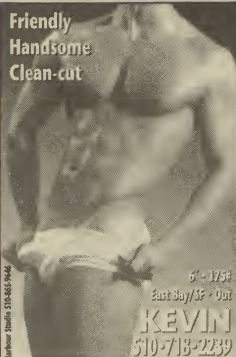
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People and Personals

MODELS & ESCORTS

Friendly Handsome Clean-cut



KEVIN
5'10" 175lb.
East Bay/1F • DUE
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STUD - 560-0056

HOT LATINO
SMOOTH, TRIM, HUNG
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Sexy blond jock with wshbrd abs & incredible pecs, 27yrs, 5'9", 155lbs., 8 1/2" c, tanned, masculine & vry handsome, \$80in/\$100out Brandon 864-0788 E16

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CA. BLONDEBOY
Bodyworks by a Buffed, Tan, Smooth, V.G.L. - All American E16

9X6 24 HRS.
Call: 775-4771 24-hours E16

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267-1800
6'1" HAIRY MUSCULINE TOP
SHAVED HEAD GOATEE
HANDSOME MUSCULAR
DIRTY MOUTH SHOWOFF



Very Handsome
Mornings O.K. - Can Travel
Cory 560-5557

STRAIGHT BOY
26 Years Old
8" Thick
DANE
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S.F. STUD
handsome, friendly, boy nextdoor.
TIM
905.5828
25yr. 6' 2" brown blue 8"

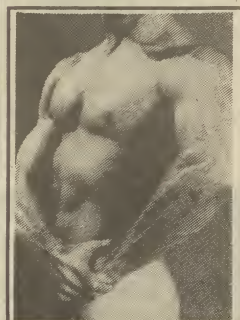


Friendly, Handsome Buffed, Suntuos
TONY 597-3613
20 Yr. Old Skater Boy
Kenny 775-8314 E16

STUD-ENT
24 y/o, 5'9", Solid 8 1/2" Romanesque Boy With Assertive Interests Most Scenes Considered Out★Call Stephen 863-4373 E16

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Playful, Sexy, Muscular 28 y/o 5'10", 150, 8". Jeff 553-8804, out. Affectionate and Intimate. E17



HUNG STUD BODYBUILDER
695-0738
Kevin

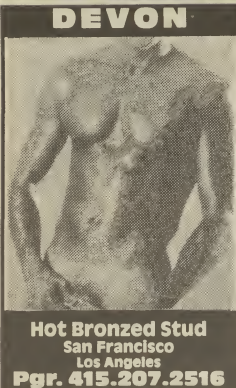
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FRIENDLY
Cute, Bright, Sincere
25 y/o, Providing Intimacy
TOM 406-8401 E16

Bill 5'9", 150#, Br/Gr Versatile. Out, safe. \$50/hr. 834-9469 E16

28★butch★Hot★8"★Thick★
KICKS BACK
\$40★Days OK★Tom 252-7923 E17

BLACK STUD
28 y/o, Gym-Tone, 6'2", 175lbs. Top/Versatile, Friendly
8 X 6 PIPE
\$100 Out
Rick: pager # 415-560-0036 E16

DEVON

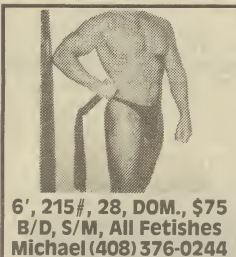


Hot Bronzed Stud
San Francisco
Los Angeles
Pgr. 415.207.2516

DAVID



TALL HAIRY HUNG
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SLING HOT DAD MARK
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Hung Big - Low Hangers.
Handsome, Aggressive
Topman!!!
Built, Friendly, Dominant!
Verbal, Open-Minded, 24 Hrs.
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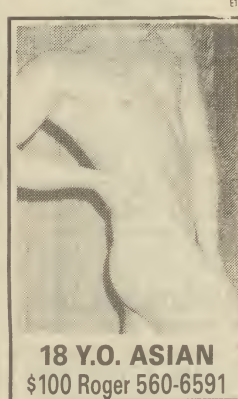


Friendly, Handsome, Hung
TONY 560-5119

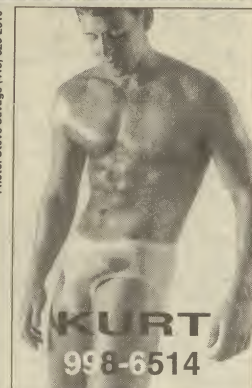
young boy
fair of face
long, curly hair
slim, dancer's build
smooth, hairless skin
7" 5'7"
621-5262

6'2", 235 lbs., Blk BB, Super Safe Exhb Muscle Worshp. 52"C, 21"A, Mega Dk. **11"x8" 863-4847** or dble up with my tall, hry hung buddie. Straight/Bl OK E16

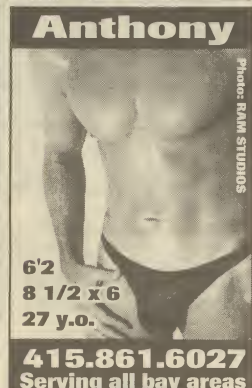
FF, TT, B/D, TOYS
Gloves, kinky, Andy, 5'9", 175 stache. 861-2668. Sling. Movies. Exper. Safe. \$70 E17



18 Y.O. ASIAN
\$100 Roger 560-6591



KURT
998-6514




Anthony
6'2"
8 1/2 x 6
27 y.o.
415.861.6027
Serving all bay areas

Johnny
(415) 303-0373 pgr
Friendly, affectionate
Never in a hurry \$75

BUTCH/LATINO
24 y/o Bodybuilder
8" Uncut, Very Hot
24 Hr. 761-9284 Vince E16

ITALIAN BODY
B/Builder, 230 Lbs.,
6'1", 50" Ch, 20"A,
25 Years Old
From Italy
207-9337



CHRIS
280 lbs., 8 1/2"
415-552-7648

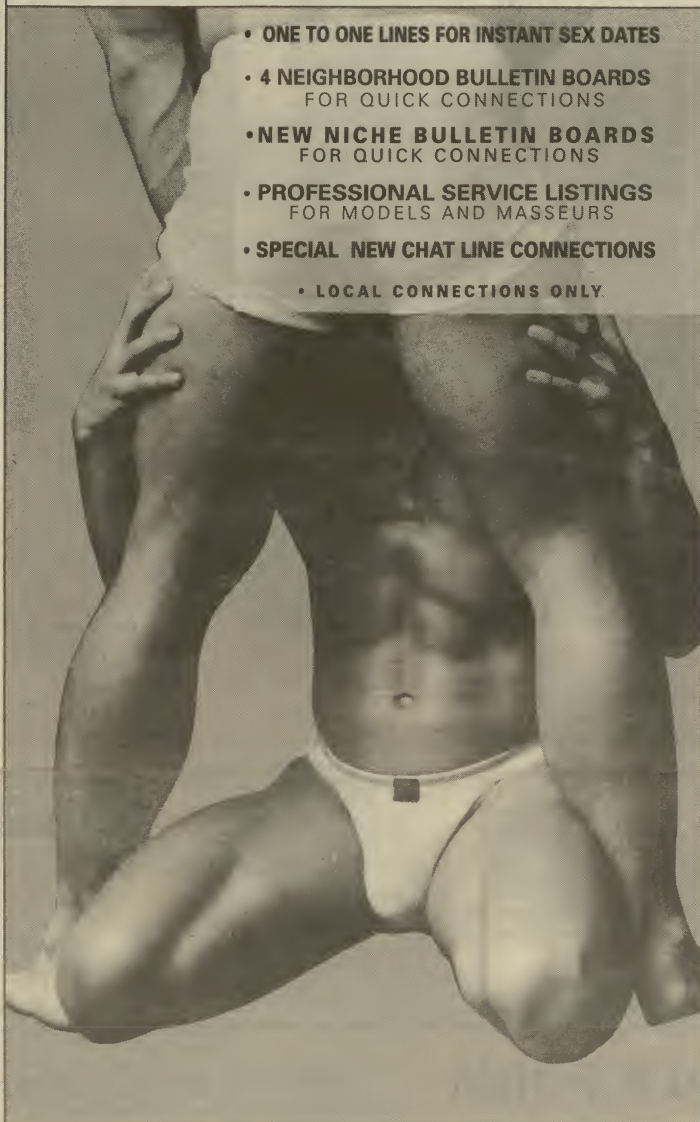
THE MEN'S CLUB



Mark
Hot Hairy Italian

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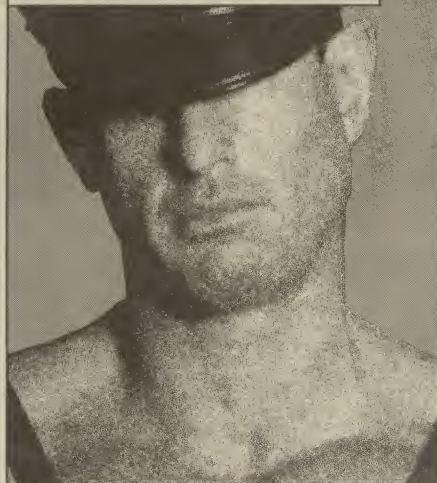
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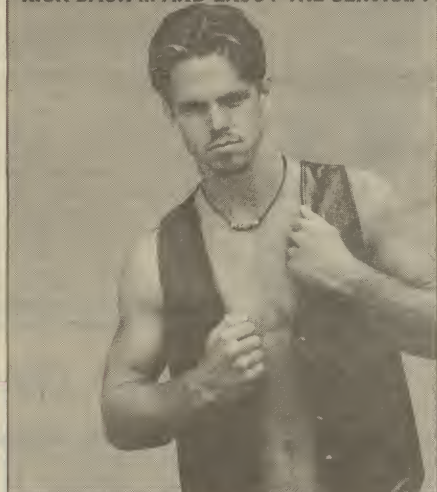


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